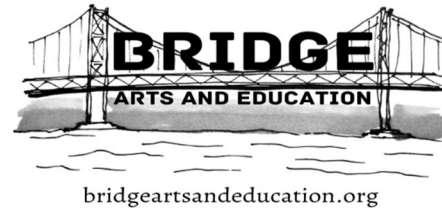


Press Release



Bridge Arts and Education's Spring Showcase Concert highlighted Hudson Valley student musicians

June 13, 2021- Kingston, NY- Bridge Arts and Education, a Hudson Valley not-for-profit, hosted a free outdoor concert at Hasbrouck Park in Kingston, NY on Sunday, June 13th. The concert featured two of Bridge's jazz ensembles; hvJAZZ/SUNY Ulster Jazz Ensemble and the Hudson Valley Youth Jazz Orchestra (HVYJO). Students from 8 different school districts have been rehearsing outdoors at SUNY Ulster and Enterprise West (formerly Tech City) all spring. For many students, this was their first full concert since early in 2020.

Bridge Arts and Education's Executive Director, Dan Shaut, reflected on the season so radically changed by COVID. "Getting together to perform for an audience after 16 months was pretty amazing. I was more nervous than I ever remember being. However, when the students began to perform the music, the energy it created was pure joy." said Shaut.

Over 75 audience members spread out on the lawn in front of the Hasbrouck Park Pavilion, overlooking the Hudson River, to hear the concert. Kate, mother of HVYJO's trombonist, said of Bridge Arts and Education's determination to have a season capped off with a live concert, "You gave these kids something to look forward to in a pandemic...and helped them realize that if it's important, there will be a way!"

7 students among these 2 ensembles are beginning college this fall. Bridge Arts and Education will be hosting auditions for the ensembles this summer. Information will be available at www.bridgeartsandeducation.org and on social media @BridgeArtsandEducation.

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