

Laila Smith with Chase Morrin



Laila Smith, 17, vocalist, pianist, composer and choir director from San Jose, CA, is fortunate to be a member of several music communities, especially San Jose Jazz, Stanford Jazz Workshop, SFJazz, Monterey Jazz, the Berkeley Jazzschool and the Palo Alto Jazz Alliance.

Graduating this year as a junior at Marin School of the Arts, she plays piano and sings in jazz

band, combos and jazz choir. She is a student director of the MSA mixed jazz choir and founded and directs an all-women jazz choir. Laila began piano lessons at age 4 and joined a jazz choir at age 6 as pianist and singer. She has performed at the San Jose Jazz Festival every year since she was 6 and has jammed with the pros since she was 8.

Laila has also studied classical voice with choirs and opera companies in the Bay area. Choir tours have taken her to Carnegie Hall and to Russia, Finland and Estonia, where in 2009 she joined over 25,000 musicians on stage performing before 100,000 people at a choir festival in Estonia. She has performed in 9 operas, and several productions of Carmina Burana.

But jazz is her passion. Since 2009, Laila has won 4 Downbeat Awards for junior high jazz vocal soloist, and high school jazz choir, jazz vocal soloist and classical vocal soloist. She has been selected to the California All State Jazz Choir three years in row. In 2010, she received an ASCAP Young Jazz Composer Award. In 2011, she was selected to perform her original composition with the North Texas One O'clock Band at the JEN New Orleans Student Composer Showcase. For 2012, Laila was selected to perform at the JEN Louisville conference, to attend NFAA YoungArts Week in Miami, FL as a finalist in jazz voice, and to attend GRAMMY Week as part of the GRAMMY Camp Jazz Choir.

Laila has given back to the community by playing piano and singing in church and at various benefit concerts, volunteering with San Jose Jazz, and teaching music in the public schools with the Alum Rock Jazz program.

Follow Laila at ReverbNation.com/LailaSmith

Laila Smith with Chase Morrin



Chase Morrin, 18, pianist, composer and band leader from San Diego, CA is a freshman in the BS/MM joint degree program at Harvard/NEC. He is currently studying with Ken Shaphorst and Frank Carlberg, composes for the NEC Jazz Composers' Workshop Orchestra and plays in an NEC ensemble directed by Jerry Bergonzi.

Chase directs, composes, and arranges for the Chase Morrin Trio, which won the open combo division at Monterey's Next Generation Jazz Festival and performed at the 2011 Monterey Jazz Festival. His trio performs all original music on his first CD, *En Común*, which is just released and for sale at JEN.

His musical activities have included composing and conducting for Canyon Crest Academy's choir, music, dance and theater conservatories; percussion in the wind ensemble; piano for MiraCosta College's Latin Jazz Orchestra; and piano for Palomar College's jazz ensemble. Chase has traveled to Indonesia to study gamelan music and played bonang in a Javanese gamelan orchestra through the World Center of Music.

Chase has earned numerous awards for composition and performance:

- JEN Louisville Student Composer Showcase
- ASCAP Plus Award and 3 ASCAP Young Jazz Composer awards
- 8 DownBeat awards in composition, arranging and performance
- 3 composition and film scoring awards from the Music Teacher's Association of California's Young Composer's Guild
- 2010 Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Award
- 2011 & 2012 YoungArts awards in composition and keyboard
- Big band composition award from the Monterey Jazz Festival
- Pianist for the 2011 Monterey Jazz Festival Next Gen Orchestra
- Pianist for the Reno Jazz Festival all star combo in 2009 and 2011
- Pianist for the Berklee Summer Jazz Workshop, 2010
- Pianist for the 2010 Vail Jazz Workshop

Chase discovered the keyboard at the age of eight when he received a toy "Costco" keyboard for Christmas. He immediately started playing and composing and has never stopped since then. Chase draws from a variety of cultural musical influences – jazz, Latin, classical and world - hoping to inspire and connect his audiences.

Follow Chase at www.chasemorrin.com