



# **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **2021 JAZZ FESTIVAL SLATED FOR NOV. 13**

KENOSHA, Wis. (Thursday, Nov. 11, 2021) – The Kenosha Unified School District Department of Fine Arts, in collaboration with Dave Sturino of Hansen’s Pool and Spa, will present its Annual Jazz Festival on Saturday, Nov. 13, 2021, at Indian Trail High School and Academy, 6800 60th St. The public is welcome to attend all activities leading up to the evening performance.

Students will be involved in performance sessions with guest artists and clinicians Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Festival activities will conclude with a public performance at 6:30 p.m. featuring all KUSD jazz ensembles and the KUSD alumni/staff combo. Tickets for the evening performance are \$12 for adults and \$10 for seniors and staff, \$5 students, and \$25 for a streaming pass. All auditorium seats are reserved and tickets can be purchased at [www.kUSD.edu/finearts](http://www.kUSD.edu/finearts).

This year’s KUSD Jazz Festival will feature trumpeter, singer, composer and educator Mike “Maz” Maher. Maher is widely known as a founding member of the Multi-Grammy award-winning group Snarky Puppy. He has performed and/or recorded with the likes of Michael McDonald, David Crosby, Soulive, Laura Mvula, Fred Wesley of the JB’s, Becca Stevens, Lucy Woodward, the Nth Power, and many more.

As a composer, Maher has penned three compositions for Snarky Puppy, including “Skate U,” “Sleeper,” and “While We’re Young.” He also writes all of the music for a band under his own name which has released three recordings to date. In 2018, he was enlisted to write much of the lyrical content for singer Alina Engibaryan’s debut album *We Are on GroundUP*, and continues to write for others as well.

He has worked as an educating clinician at colleges and conservatories in the U.S. and abroad covering topics such as trumpet performance and improvisation, composition, music business, and use of effects pedals with trumpet. He endorses Yamaha trumpets and flugelhorns and MXR effects pedals.

This year’s festival is made possible by a generous donation from Hansen’s Pool & Spa. Participating KUSD band directors are Karl Mueller, Bradford High School; Zachary Hamilton, Harborside Academy; Jeremy Kriedeman, Indian Trail High School and Academy; Kathy Ripley, Tremper High School; Michael Monk, Mahone Middle School; Matt Maccari, Lance Middle School; Nathan Larsen, Lincoln Middle School; Katie Poole, Bullen Middle School; and Lucas Dickinson, Washington Middle School.

For additional information, please contact Scott Plank, coordinator of fine arts, at 262-359-6388.

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