

## ***Caleb Hutchings, soloist***



Caleb Hutchings is a 17-year-old senior at South Medford High School. Starting piano lessons at the age of 10, Mr. Hutchings began studying with Georgia Weidman Clark. A few years later in 7th grade, he picked up the bassoon and began studying with Tiffany Schmidt. Mr. Hutchings' other teachers include Alexander Tutunov (piano) and Steve Vacchi (bassoon).

In middle school Mr. Hutchings joined the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon and in 9th grade was appointed Principal. He also frequently plays with the Rogue Valley Symphonic Band and the Ashland City Band. Mr. Hutchings played Principal in the All-State Wind Ensemble and All-Northwest Orchestra. In addition to participating in these honor groups, he was also accepted into a collegiate music festival FOOSA (Fresno Opera Orchestra Summer Academy) the last two years.

Over his high school career, Mr. Hutchings has won competitions on both bassoon and piano. In 2018 he won the Youth Symphony of Southern Oregon Concerto Competition, as well as placing 2nd in the OSAA State Solo Competition on bassoon. The following year he won the Rogue Valley Symphonic Band Young Artists Competition on piano and played Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*. In 2019 he also won the Brookings Harbor Friends of Music Scholarship and the Oregon Sinfonietta Concerto Competition. Most recently, Mr. Hutchings was invited to compete in the final round of the President's Own Marine Band concerto competition.

While juggling around his performing schedule, Mr. Hutchings also teaches piano lessons and can't get enough. Teaching is one of his favorite things to do. He held his first student recital in December and had 10 students participate. Over the next two months Mr. Hutchings will be auditioning to major conservatories all over the country.