Maestro drops in for a taste of tropical jam

ANIKA HUME

CAIRNS State High School’s Stage Band may have won at the local eisteddfod two years running, but they know there’s still plenty left to learn — especially when their teacher is jazz great James Morrison.

The trumpet maestro spent an hour yesterday working with and rehearsing with the 23-piece band preparing their collaborative performance of three pieces for next Tuesday’s G20 Tropical Jam Concert.

Band conductor Jen Christodoulides said Morrison discussed improvisation, jazz style and elements of a strong ensemble performance including balance and tuning with the students.

“He’s a world class performer, one of the best, and he’s really invested a lot into music education in this country, so getting the chance to work with him doesn’t happen every day,” he said.

“We’ve been rehearsing this all term, honing our skills, and James stepping in will help us fine tune it ready for a great show next week.”

The G20 Tropical Jam is a free event at Fogarty Park ahead of the G20 finance meetings in Cairns.

A host of performers will hit the stage from 6pm on September 16, including Christine Anu, the Queensland Youth Orchestra, Bushy Marou, Cairns' own Black Image, Mau Power, and the Sounds of Australsia choir.

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