

# RABB

Rio Americano Band Boosters

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### RIO AMERICANO STUDENTS WIN DOWNBEAT MUSIC AWARDS

**Sacramento, CA May 2009.** Six Rio Americano High School students are winners in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual DownBeat Student Music Awards. Rio Sophomore, Victor San Pedro, was chosen as 'High School Outstanding Performer' on guitar in the jazz soloist category and Rio combo members Zach Giberson (alto sax and guitar), Zachary Darf (tenor sax), Kai Ambrose (piano), Nathan Swedlow (bass) and Cashel Barnett (drums) were awarded 'High School Outstanding Performance' in the jazz combo category.

DownBeat magazine is one of the most respected jazz publications in the country and its annual student awards are among the most coveted in jazz education, attracting entries from throughout the US and abroad. Student recordings were evaluated anonymously by a panel of judges and awards made on the basis of musicianship, creativity, improvisation, technique, and sound quality. A complete list of winners will be featured in the June edition of DownBeat Magazine.

The Rio Americano band program, under the combined direction of Josh Murray and Max Kiesner, provides high quality music education to over 180 students in four levels of concert band and three jazz ensembles. Rio bands have toured in Australia, Europe, Japan and China and won national recognition at such prestigious events as the Essentially Ellington and Monterey Jazz Festivals. Plans are currently underway for a summer 2010 performance tour of Argentina. For additional information on the Rio Americano High School band program visit [www.rioband.net](http://www.rioband.net) or contact Josh Murray ([jomurray@sanjuan.edu](mailto:jomurray@sanjuan.edu) or 916-971-7512).