

Jazz Studies Major Audition Requirements

The audition specifications below are for prospective jazz studies majors, but may also be used by non-majors who have an interest in being involved in the jazz program and wish audition in the hope of receiving a jazz participation scholarship. *All students including non-majors who wish to be involved in the jazz program will audition at the beginning of the fall semester for placement in combos and big bands along with majors.*

The list below is intended to help us get an idea of each student's capability in the jazz idiom. Not everyone will be able to do everything on the list, but it is important to attempt and prepare for all the aspects of the audition to give us an accurate picture of each student's potential for success as a major.

Audition Requirements for Jazz Studies - Wind Instruments

1. Prepared jazz selection of standard jazz repertoire from the list of suggested tunes. Performance should include your interpretation of the melody and an improvised solo. Suggested tunes may include blues pieces.
2. Open choice selection by the prospective student that demonstrates where their musical abilities are strongest. This selection may be fully notated and does not have to be a jazz piece, but something that reflects jazz influence is strongly recommended. A feature part from your jazz band music or a jazz etude such as found in the Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero are also good choices.
3. Major scales and related modes and arpeggios in any of the 12 keys selected by auditioner.
4. Easy level sight reading.

Suggested Repertoire:

Satin Doll (Ellington)
Autumn Leaves
Billie's Bounce (Parker)
I've Got Rhythm (Gershwin)
Cotton Tail (Ellington)
Summertime (Gershwin)
Four (Miles Davis)
Blue Bossa (Kenny Dorham)
Straight, No Chaser (Thelonious Monk)
Work Song (Nat Adderly)

Most of these can be found in play along form with a book and CD from Jamey Aebersold on the website: www.jazzbooks.com . You may perform with a play-along pre-recorded accompaniment or your auditioner can provide accompaniment.

Audition Requirements for Jazz Studies - Bass

1. Bass line realization of a standard jazz tune using a lead sheet (melody and chord

symbols) in swing style walking quarter note, bossa nova style, samba or other latin style is optional.-(prepared)

2. Bass line realization in varied styles of a standard jazz tune provided by the auditioner at the time of the audition from list of suggested tunes.
3. Bass Line realization on a jazz style blues progression.
4. *Encouraged but not required:* perform a piece of jazz band music of your choosing, or solo transcription, jazz etude (e.g. Snidero Jazz Conception) or original composition that best demonstrates your abilities. Improvise on any of the above of #'s 1,2,3.

Audition Requirements for Jazz Studies - Piano and Guitar

1. Chord voicing realization of a standard jazz tune -(prepared),
2. Chord voicing realization of a standard jazz tune provided by the auditioner at the time of the audition from list of suggested tunes.
3. Prepared jazz selection of standard jazz repertoire from the list of suggested tunes. Performance should include your interpretation of the melody and an improvised solo. Suggested tunes may include blues pieces. This selection may be the same piece used in #1.
4. **Piano** - varied voicings (minimum 3 notes) on unaltered dominant chords. These voicings may include some extensions and do not need to include the root of the chord. You may be asked to demonstrate these in both the left hand and right hand.
Guitar - varied voicings (minimum 3 notes) on unaltered dominant chords. These voicings may include some extensions and do not need to include the root of the chord.
5. Open choice selection by the prospective student that demonstrates where their musical abilities are strongest. This selection may be fully notated and does not have to be a jazz piece, but something that reflects jazz influence is strongly recommended. A feature part from your jazz band music or a jazz etude such as found in the Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero are also good choices.
6. Major scales and related modes and arpeggios in any of the 12 keys selected by auditioner.
7. Easy level sight –reading of both notes and chord symbols.

Suggested Repertoire:

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Audition Requirements for Jazz Studies – Drums and Vibes

Vibes

1. Chord voicing realization of a standard jazz tune -(prepared),
2. Chord voicing realization of a standard jazz tune provided by the auditioner at the time of the audition from list of suggested tunes.
3. Prepared jazz selection of standard jazz repertoire from the list of suggested tunes. Performance should include your interpretation of the melody and an improvised solo. Suggested tunes may include blues pieces. This selection may be the same piece used in #1.
4. Open choice selection by the prospective student that demonstrates where their musical abilities are strongest. This selection may be fully notated and does not have to be a jazz piece, but something that reflects jazz influence is strongly recommended. A feature part from your jazz band music or a jazz etude such as found in the Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero are also good choices.
5. Major scales and related modes and arpeggios in any of the 12 keys selected by auditioner.
6. Easy level sight –reading of both notes and chord symbols.

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Drumset

1. Demonstration of the beat patterns for the following styles – 8 bar phrases with fills at the end of each phrase: Medium tempo swing, up tempo swing (up to 180 bpm), Bossa Nova, Samba or Mambo, Shuffle Funk/Hip Hop, Ballad w brushes (optional.)
2. Open choice selection by the prospective student that demonstrates where their musical abilities are strongest. This selection may be fully notated and does not have

to be a jazz piece, but something that reflects jazz influence is strongly recommended. A feature part from your jazz band music or a jazz drum solo etude are also good choices.

3. Easy level sight reading of a big band drum part.