

Jazz Studies Audition Requirements

General Requirements

Audition requirements for Bachelor of Music in Jazz Studies (MUJZ), for freshman or transfer students planning to enter in Fall 2012.

1. All applicants must submit an audition on CD or DVD format. Auditions do not need to be professionally recorded or produced, but it should be indicated if that is the case. Please enclose a listing of all musicians involved in the recording (including yourself!), or note that you are performing with an Aebersold or similar play-along. All CD tracks or DVD chapters should be clearly identified (including tune title) so that we may easily move from selection to selection. Your CD or DVD should look and sound as good as you can reasonably make it. No audition materials will be returned.
2. **All applicants MUST submit: 1) Cali School of Music Application; 2) MSU Application; and 3) a DVD or CD postmarked on or before February 3, 2012.** There can be no exceptions, and any materials received from applicants who have not completed all application documents will be discarded. You are welcome to submit your CD or DVD at any time prior to this, but results may not be available immediately.

After receiving audition materials, we may request a live audition. Applicants who don't live in the NY/NJ region may be allowed to perform this live audition via Skype. **When completing the Cali School Audition Application, all applicants should indicate preference of March 2nd or March 3rd for this potential live audition.**

Please send your DVD or CD to:
Don Braden
Coordinator of Jazz Studies
Cali School of Music
Montclair State University
Montclair, NJ 07043

3. Possible outcomes of the audition are as follows:
 - a. You are accepted as a Jazz Studies major. Placement tests in music theory and piano will occur for you at the beginning of the relevant semester.
 - b. You are not accepted as a Jazz Studies Major. You may apply again in a future year, up to two more times.
 - c. You may be invited or required to perform an audition in person or via Skype, with a decision on acceptance to follow.
4. If you have any questions, please e-mail Don Braden, at bradend@mail.montclair.edu

Audition CD Requirements:

All instrumentalists except drummers are required to demonstrate competency in basic scales.

1. On one track of the audition CD, play Major (Ionian) scales up to the 9th and back down in medium/slow tempo (60 BPM) 8th notes. Start in C concert and play all 12 keys around the circle of fourths (C, F, Bb, etc.). You may use a metronome.
2. On another track, do the same for Dorian minor; six keys will be sufficient.
3. On one more track, do the same for Dominant 7th (Mixolydian) for six keys.

Vocalists do the same as above, but sing three keys each for Major, Dorian minor and Dominant 7.

Songs Tracks Jazz Guitar

1. Perform three contrasting jazz standards (for example, a medium blues, a Latin or Bossa or ECM style tune, and a medium-up or up tempo tune) in the following format.
 - a. You play the melody in.
 - b. You solo for one two choruses.
 - c. You comp while another player solos (or comp at a louder volume than the play-along CD).
 - d. You play the melody out.
2. Perform a solo version (chorded melody) of a ballad (either an arrangement or an original is acceptable).

Song Tracks for Jazz Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Bass, or Voice*

All tunes should be recorded with other musicians if possible, but may be recorded utilizing an Aebersold (or similar) play-along recording.

1. Perform a medium tempo blues in F or B-flat: head and three choruses. Bass players please note: After the melody, walk for two choruses before your solo (which may be only two choruses). Piano players please note: After the melody, comp for two choruses prior to your solo.
2. Perform a ballad. Melody should be interpreted in a personal way, along with one chorus of improvisation. Piano players please note: your ballad should be played without accompaniment.
3. Perform a medium or up-tempo standard or "modern" jazz tune (may be swing or even eighth). Melody should be fairly close to the lead sheet (exact if selecting an up-tempo jazz tune), along with 2-3 choruses of improvisation. Bass players: after the melody, walk or play the appropriate groove (bossa, Latin, etc) for two choruses prior to your solo.

* Scat singing is optional, not required. All melodies, including the blues, should be your own interpretation, but melody notes should be the correct pitches. If your blues head or up-tempo tune does not have lyrics, either compose something (vocalese) or use scat syllables to sing the head.

Jazz Drum Set Requirements:

1. Perform the following snare drum rudiments (state what each one is before playing it):
 - a. Single, double and triple paradiddles
 - b. Five, seven, and nine stroke rolls
 - c. Flam tap, flam accent
 - d. Single and double ratamacues
 - e. Press roll – soft (pp) to loud (ff), and back down to soft

2. Demonstrate three contrasting styles or grooves (for example, you might choose from swing, funk, bossa, songo, 6/8 Latin, ECM even eighth, etc) using three separate tunes. If you are sending in a recording featuring only yourself, please be sure to play time for 2 choruses of each selection. If you are utilizing a full group, standard jazz performance practice is acceptable, but any solos, including your own, should be limited to one chorus.

3. Ted Reed Syncopation book, page 32: Play a jazz (swing) ride pattern in the right hand, hi hat on two and four, while demonstrating various coordination skills between the left hand and right foot.