

2026 SCSBOA HS Jazz All-Stars/Ambassadors Audition
Recording Instructions
Cycle A
www.scsboa.org

There are two honor jazz ensembles for those students in grades 9-12: The HS Jazz All-Stars and The HS Jazz Ambassadors. Students in the 9th grade are also eligible for the JHS Honor Jazz Band (grades 6-9). If you are a 9th grader and would also like to be considered for the JHS Honor Jazz Band, you must submit the audition materials for that group as well.

All audition materials must be submitted online via the SCSBOA Audition Portal no later than 11:59pm on 12/5/25. Instructions about how to set up your audition account and how to upload your audition files can be found on the SCSBOA website. This letter is to outline the audition requirements for the Jazz All-Stars and the Jazz Ambassadors.

I. **General Considerations** - All music files will be uploaded to the online audition system via the SCSBOA website.

- A. Take the time to make a high quality recording
- B. The only approved recording formats are MP3 or MP4
- C. Etudes should be uploaded according to their NUMBER (i.e: upload Etude #1 in the Etude #1 slot, etc.).
- D. Record all listed requirements and follow directions carefully.
- E. **DO NOT RECORD ANY SPOKEN WORDS ON YOUR TRACKS.**
- F. Use of a metronome while recording or any digital editing to improve the quality of your submission is grounds for immediate disqualification.
- G. OPTIONAL DOUBLES ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED. Please record exactly as described below for your instrument.

II. **Audition Requirements** - The following are the general requirements for every instrument:

A. ALL WIND INSTRUMENTS

- 1. Play your chromatic scale (1/8th notes @ 120 bpm or faster) continuously from your lowest comfortable note to your highest comfortable note. This should be played in a legato style (slurred) all the way up and down.
- 2. Play the Etudes listed below.
- 3. Improvisation.

B. ALL RHYTHM SECTION INSTRUMENTS

- 1. **No scale requirements for rhythm section players.**
- 2. Play the Etudes listed below.
- 3. Improvisation

I. **Etudes For All Instruments** - Below are all of the etudes that are required for each instrument. Please make sure you read this part carefully. If you submit the incorrect etudes, your audition will not be considered. **This year we are using the Cycle A Etudes composed by Jeff Jarvis** and all of the required etudes can be downloaded from the SCSBOA webpage:

[2026 SCSBOA All-Southern Jazz HS Etudes](#)

A. **Saxophones:** Swing, Latin, and Ballad Etudes

1. Bari Sax has a different Swing Etude than Alto/Tenor Sax.

B. **Trumpets:** Swing, Latin, and Ballad Etudes

1. Lead Trumpet performs Lead Etude **in addition to Etude #1 (swing)**.
2. **NEW THIS YEAR - Improvisation is not optional.** All trumpet players must submit the improvisation. If you want to be considered for the lead chair, then you need to also submit the lead etude, but everybody has to submit improvisation either way.

C. **Trombones:** Swing, Latin, and Ballad Etudes

1. Bass Bone has a different Swing Etude (based on "Just In Time") than other trombones.
2. Bass Bone adjust for octaves as needed on Etude #2 and Etude #3.

D. **Piano:** Swing, Salsa, and Ballad Etudes

E. **Guitar:** Balad, Swing, and Funk Etudes

F. **Bass:** Ballad, Swing, and Salsa Etudes

1. Bass players are required to demonstrate improvisation skills.
2. If possible, please perform Swing and Ballad Etudes on Acoustic Bass and Latin Etude on electric bass.

G. **Vibes:** Ballad, Swing, and Latin Etudes

1. Vibraphone players are required to demonstrate improvisation skills.

H. **Drums:** Swing, Swing with brushes, and Mambo Etudes

II. **Improvisation**

A. Record the head and 2-4 solo choruses of "Stella By Starlight" using the changes provided.

1. You can use the melody found in any Real Book or any other source or you can improvise your own version of the melody, but the melody must be clear on your first chorus.
2. This can be recorded with a live rhythm section of your choice or using the play-a-long recording provided on the website, but it must be accompanied.
3. If using a live rhythm section, tempo should be approximately 1/4 note=120 bpm and played in the swing style.
4. Piano/Guitar/Bass/Vibes: Play the head on one chorus, then comp/walk for one chorus, then solo for 2-4 additional choruses.
5. Drums: Instead of playing Stella, play four bars swing-time feel (1/4 note=160bpm) alternating with four bars of solo, 32 bars total. Then, do the same with a Samba groove (1/2 note=100bpm), playing four bars of Samba alternating with four bars of solo, 32 bars total.

Please address any questions to Eric Samson, VP of Jazz Education at: jazz@scsboa.org