



2025-2026 Jazz Program

Information & Placement Video Instructions

Jazz Program Information

- **Please check out the Jazz Program rehearsal & event schedule → [CLICK HERE!](#)**
 - Check that you can make most of the performance/rehearsal dates.
 - Communication with Mr. Taba, Jazz Director, is very important if you cannot make a rehearsal or event.
- **For Guitar, Keyboard/Piano, Bass, & Drum Set/Percussion Students:**
 - Space is limited to two students per instrument per ensemble. (*Example: 2 guitars max in Jazz I and 2 guitars max in Jazz II.*)
 - Students who submit their placement video by the deadline will receive first consideration.
- **You must submit a placement video BEFORE you can register for the Jazz Program.**
- **The steps to register are:**
 1. **Submit your placement video** using the instructions below by **July 30, 2025.**
 2. **Mr. Taba will review the videos** and you will receive an email with your placement (Jazz I or Jazz II) and instructions on how to register online.
 3. **Registration deadlines:**
 - a. August 16, 2025 - Financial Aid Registration Deadline
 - b. August 23, 2025 - Regular Registration Deadline
 4. **Tuition for Jazz Program is as follows:**
 - a. **Jazz I** - \$1230.00 for the year.
 - b. **Jazz II** - \$1170.00 for the year.
 - c. Financial aid is available and can reduce the cost of tuition by up to 50%. We encourage all families to apply for financial aid.

Instructions for Taking Your Placement Video

- **Make sure that we can hear the backing track that you are playing along with.** Use the appropriate mp3 and pdf for your instrument.
 - [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Google Folder for the mp3 backing tracks and PDFs of music for all instruments.
- Please dress appropriately and try to have yourself and your instrument centered in the frame of the video so we can see you playing your instrument clearly.
- Upload your video as an **unlisted YouTube video.**
- **Email the YouTube link to:** dean@hiyouthsymphony.org (Jazz Director)
- If you have questions about the placement video, please reach out to Mr. Dean Taba at the email address above.

Instrument Specific Instructions

This is if you have some experience improvising and with jazz.

Wind Instruments:

1. Play one chorus of the melody to “Blues by Five.”
2. Then improvise a solo for two choruses at which point the backing track will end.

Guitarists and Keyboardists:

1. Comp for one chorus of “Blues by Five.”
2. Then play one chorus of the melody.
3. Then Improvise a solo for two choruses at which point the backing track will end.

Bassists:

1. Walk for two choruses of “Blues by Five.”
2. Then improvise a solo for two choruses at which point the backing track will end.

Drummers:

1. Play an accompaniment for two one choruses of “Blues by Five.”
2. Then play an improvised solo over the backing track for two choruses at which point the backing track will end.

If you have NO EXPERIENCE improvising:

- You may interact with the backing track however you like but attempt to play with it for its entire duration so we can hear you play your instrument. **You can just play the melody and repeat it several times over the track.**