

Jazz Audition Directions

Welcome to jazz auditions! Please read the following instructions carefully and prepare all materials to the best of your ability. This audition is designed to evaluate your technique, stylistic understanding, and improvisational skills. There will also be sight reading at the audition.

Materials to Prepare

You have been provided with **three documents** for your audition:

1. "Things to Work On" – Improvisation Concepts

This is a reading assignment from a jazz improvisation method book. Please read the full chapter carefully.

- Feel free to email me with questions.
- Reflect on how the concepts apply to your approach to soloing on the audition tune.

2. **Jazz Scales & Arpeggios (Drummers skip this part)**

This page includes six scales and their corresponding arpeggios.

- Perform all six scales and arpeggios.
- Tempo: Quarter note = 120
- Articulation: Swing eighth notes
- Focus on intonation, tone quality, and rhythmic precision

Available Resources:

- Notation for [C](#), [Bb](#), [Eb](#), and [Bass Clef](#) instruments

3. "Grapes and Flowers" – Lead Sheet

"Grapes and Flowers" is a contrafact (a musical composition where a new melody is written over an existing chord progression) based on the chord changes of "Days of Wine and Roses."

You are encouraged to listen to multiple recordings of "Days of Wine and Roses" to understand different stylistic interpretations. Be prepared to share which versions inspired your performance.

- You will perform this with a provided play-along track.

Performance Structure:

- Play the melody once (head in)
- Improvise two choruses (two full times through the form)
- Play the melody again (head out)

Key Focus Areas:

- Accurate rhythm, articulation, and stylistic interpretation of the melody
- Thoughtful and musical improvisation
- Strong understanding of form and harmonic structure
- Drummers will play time for the head choruses, and can give hits based on the melody, and will improvise for 2 choruses, just like horn players.

Available Resources:

- Notation for [C](#), [Bb](#), [Eb](#), and [Bass Clef](#) instruments
- [Play-along track](#)

4. Grooves – Percussion Only

- Medium Swing (ride cymbal focus, feathered bass drum, hi-hat on 2 & 4)
 - Fast Swing
 - Bossa Nova (basic Brazilian pattern, steady groove)
 - Funk (syncopated hi-hat or ride pattern, clear backbeat)
 - Jazz Ballad (brushes preferred)
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Practice Tips

- Use a metronome and play-along tracks consistently.
 - Develop your solos melodically — use repetition, variation, and space.
 - Record your practice sessions and review them critically.
 - Demonstrate musicality, not just technical proficiency.
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Audition Details

- **Audition Window:** July 28–July 31
- **Sign-Up Sheet:** Coming Soon
- **What to Bring:** Your instrument and all printed music
- **Provided:** Accompaniment/play-along tracks during your audition

Evaluation Criteria

We will be listening for:

- Technical proficiency and control
- Jazz style, articulation, and phrasing
- Creativity and musical thought in improvisation
- Overall preparation and effort

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out. Best of luck—play with confidence and enjoy the music!