

University of Utah Jazz Ensemble Audition Guidelines

Big Band Auditions:

Saxophones:

1. Bring your saxophone of preference to the audition
2. Prepare measures 1–38 of the Alto 1 part for “Four”
3. Prepare for some easy sight-reading
4. Optional (but strongly encouraged, especially for potential lead players): bring in any doubles you play (flute, clarinet, bass clarinet) with a short (1 minute maximum) etude or excerpt prepared (such as Ferling, Lacour, etc.) and be prepared to play a few major scales
5. If you improvise, be prepared to play a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

Trumpets:

1. Prepare measures 1–15 and 75–96 of the Trumpet 1 part for “Four”
2. Prepare for some easy sight-reading
3. Be prepared to play a few major scales to demonstrate your maximum range in the upper register
4. If you improvise, be prepared to play a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

Trombones:

1. Prepare measures 1–15 and 73–96 of the Trumpet 1 part for “Four”
2. Prepare for some easy sight-reading
3. Be prepared to play a few major scales to demonstrate your maximum range in the upper register
4. If you improvise, be prepared to play a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

Piano, Bass, Drums, Vibes, and Guitar:

1. Prepare measures 1–38 of your instrument’s part for “Four”
2. Prepare for some easy sight-reading
3. Be prepared to demonstrate how you would comp for a horn player for an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

4. If you improvise, be prepared to play a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

Vocalists:

1. Be prepared to sing a few major/minor scales with swung 8th notes at a medium swing tempo
2. Be prepared to sing the melody (with lyrics) to 3 (or more) mainstream jazz songs of your choice in contrasting styles (swing, bebop, ballad, bossa nova, etc.)
3. If you improvise, be prepared to sing a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over a “jazz blues” and 2–3 additional mainstream jazz songs of your choice in contrasting styles

Jazz Combos Auditions:

All Instruments/Voice:

1. Be prepared to play/sing a few major and minor (melodic and/or harmonic) scales with swung 8th notes at a medium swing tempo
2. Bring in any excerpt from a prepared jazz etude or jazz solo transcription of your choice (3 minute maximum)
3. If you improvise, be prepared to play/sing a short (1–3 chorus) improvised solo over an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”
4. *Rhythm section instruments only*: demonstrate how you would comp for a horn player for an F or Bb blues and “Stella by Starlight” or “All the Things You Are”

*If you have any questions not answered above, please contact Dr. Josiah Boornazian:
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