

Sherwood High School

Jazz Ensemble I Auditions 2015

Information about Auditions

- Practice Sessions & Help will be provided to band students between 7:00am-7:50am on September 9, 10, 11, 14.
- Auditions will be held on September 15th & 16th. Sign up for an audition time inside the band room. Be sure you have the audition handout for your instrument.
- Results will be posted at the end of school on Thursday, September 17th.
- Students who make it into the ensemble will start attending class on September 18th. Mr. Stai will contact the counseling office to add the jazz class into student's schedules.
- Our First Full Jazz Ensemble I meeting will be at 7am on September 18th.
- Jazz Ensemble I will meet every morning from 7:00am-7:50am.
- Jazz Ensemble I auditions are for enthusiastic musicians who are committed to preparing their parts and showing up on time and ready to play every rehearsal and every gig!
- Jazz Ensemble I is a graded class.
- Feel free to email Mr. Stai questions at bstai@sherwood.k12.or.us

Things we'll be listening for

- **Confidence** - Did you show up on time, prepared, and ready to give your best.
- **Assigned Prepared Pieces** - Work up the prepared pieces to the best of your ability in one week. Think about key signature, steady tempo, and style.
- **Your Choice Prepared Piece** - During jazz auditions, you will have the opportunity to perform something extra. Pick something that you are comfortable with that showcases your talents.
- **See the reverse side** of this handout for extra tips & notes specific to the instrument you are auditioning on.
- **Lessons** - Be sure to mention if you are taking lessons. Taking lessons shows dedication.

Extra Audition Notes

Saxes & Brass:

- Scales - Major, Minor, Dominant 7, Bflat & F Blues.
- "Oregon All State Audition" - One Time Through, take a stab at the improve section either using the chord changes (show me what you know).
- What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Style. 8th Note lines should be swinging, no straight.
 - Articulation should be clear and appropriate.
 - Beautiful Tone.
 - Musical shape & line. Play the music like you listen to jazz and know the language.

Rhythm Section specifics on backside

Extra Audition Notes

Drums:

- Play 16 bars of a swing beat, at a few different tempos, (slow, med, fast) with some simple fills every 4 bars.
- Play 16 bars of a basic latin beat, either bossa nova, samba, mambo, etc if possible.
- Play 16 bars of a rock/funk beat, with simple fills every 4 or 8 bars.
- Basic rudiments, rhythms & drum rolls to be played on the snare drum.
- Demonstrate a simple brushes pattern if you know them.
- "Oregon All State Audition" - One Time Through
 - What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Swing
 - Time should be rock solid.
 - Kicks, hits & fills.
 - Balance between all drumset components.

Piano:

- Demonstrate major and minor scales, 2 hands, 2 octaves. If Possible, demonstrate ability to read chord symbols, showing knowledge of major, minor and dominant 7 (or 9s) chords, at least in root position.
- Using both hands, demonstrate major, minor and dominant chords (all keys) in root position, 1st and 2nd inversions, and root position without the root. If possible, demonstrate 2 handed "open" voicings of major, minor and dominant chords, if possible.
- "Oregon All State Audition" - One Time Through
 - What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Swing style
 - Time & Articulation should be rock solid.
 - Show off your own chord voicings and comping rhythms during solo section.
 - Using rhythmic figures with chord voicings when indicated.

Guitar:

- Demonstrate pentatonic scales, as well as scale patterns for major and minor scales.
- Demonstrate major, minor and dominant chords, at least 2 different voicings for each chord.
- Play a basic 12 bar blues chord progression.
- "Oregon All State Audition" - One Time Through
 - What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Swing style
 - Time & Articulation should be rock solid.
 - Show off your own chord voicings and comping rhythms for piece.
 - Using rhythmic figures with chord voicings when indicated.

Bass: *Being able to play both upright and electric bass is huge.*

- Demonstrate pentatonic scales, as well as scale patterns for major and minor scales.
- Demonstrate a simple 12 bar blues walking bass line. Demonstrate ability to keep your place while reading chords by walking using roots and 5ths; keep a steady tempo.
- Demonstrate 16 bars of a funk/rock bass line.
- "Things ain't what they used to be" - Measures 1-56.
 - What I am listening for:
 - Appropriate Jazz Swing & Shuffle style
 - Time should be rock solid.
 - Using rhythmic figures with chord voicings when indicated.