

2023-2024

Jazz Audition Requirements

Overview

Jazz has always been a vital part of the music department at Kinder HSPVA. The Jazz Program includes two big bands and two “official” combos. Other related courses offered include Jazz Fundamentals/ Improvisation, and a Rhythm Section class. Since the inception of the TMEA All-State Jazz Ensembles in 1979, the jazz program has had well over 150 students selected to these prestigious ensembles. Since 2008, Kinder HSPVA has partnered with the Herbie Hancock Institute’s Performing Arts High School Jazz Program, which brings in respected musicians and educators from the local community and region to work with students in a small group setting. Some recent clinicians have included Dr. Robert Morgan, Jason Moran, Robert Glasper, Helen Sung, Ingrid Jenson, Brandon Lee, Pamela York, Andre Hayward, David Caceres, Joel Frahm, Greg Fishman, Eddie Gomez, Don Braden, and Tim Hagans. Kinder HSPVA jazz ensembles have performed at numerous festivals including Essentially Ellington, Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, North Texas Jazz Festival, Crescent City Jazz and many other local and regional festivals.

When are auditions and callbacks?

The first stage of auditions for the 2023-24 school year will be virtual.

Submissions will be accepted from January 10, 2023 – February 3, 2023. Please check our website at that time for uploading instructions. Each assignment and video will be uploaded individually. The submission deadline for materials is Friday, February 3, 2023 at 11:59 PM CT.

Callbacks are by invitation only. The format of callbacks is TBD. You will be notified if you have received a callback no later than February 10, 2023. Callback instructions will be provided to students at that time. Hold the date of Saturday, February 18, 2023, for a possible in person callback.

How do I upload my materials?

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What do I need to prepare for an audition?

Part 1: 30-60 second introduction – Brief video introduction of who you are, how long you have been playing and why you are interested in attending Kinder HSPVA's Instrumental department

Part 2: Make a video recording with clear audio of you performing the following:

Electric Guitar, Piano, Bass

Video #1 – You will perform a standard tune (no more than 90 seconds) from *The Real Book* or any similar collection of traditional jazz tunes (e.g., "Autumn Leaves," "Take the A Train," etc.). You should play the melody with appropriate chordal accompaniment, and, if possible, improvise on a portion of the selection. You may also use pre-recorded accompaniment (such as Jamey Aebersold Play-A-Longs, Band-in-a-Box, iReal Pro, etc.)

Video #2 – Demonstrate familiarity with the following chord structures. Piano and guitar please use jazz chord voicings. Bassists, for each chord play the root, third, fifth, and seventh of each chord quality.

- C Major 7
- C Dominant 7
- c minor 7th
- c minor 7th b5

Video #3 (Optional) – If you are in a school jazz ensemble, you may additionally prepare a selection from your jazz ensemble repertoire (no more than 60 seconds). The selection should include both "comping" (from chord symbols) and "written-out" melodic material.

Drum Set

Video 1: Demonstrate the following "rhythmic feels" in an imaginative manner:

- Medium swing (16 measures)
- Uptempo swing (16 measures)
- Medium rock/funk (8 measures)
- Bossa nova (16 measures)
- Jazz ballad with brushes (8 measures)

Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophones

Please see instructions for Band Audition Requirements. You will submit a Band Audition and have the option to record a jazz improv video.

NOTES

- Introduce the piece you will be playing (name and composer).
- The quality of the video will not be taken into consideration. Using your phone is completely acceptable.
- The video should show only the student.
- Make sure that the final version you submit represents your best work. Unlike a live audition, you can keep recording until you are satisfied.
- If you are unable to record a video or upload for any reason, please contact Mr. Klein, Magnet Coordinator, to discuss alternatives. (jklein1@houstonisd.org)