

The High School For The Performing And Visual Arts!

Audition Requirements for the 2018-2019 School Year

Jazz Piano, Electric Guitar, Bass (Electric or Acoustic)

Overview

Jazz has always been a vital part of the music department at HSPVA. The HSPVA jazz program includes two big bands and two "official" combos. Other related courses offered include Jazz History, Jazz Fundamentals/ Improvisation, and a Rhythm Section class. Since the inception of the TMEA All-State Jazz Ensemble in 1979 (and more recently All-State Jazz Ensemble II), the jazz program has had well over 100 students selected to these prestigious ensembles. Since 2008, HSPVA has been associated with the Thelonious Monk 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, Helen Sung, Dennis Dotson, Sebastian Whittaker, Pamela York, Andre Hayward, David Caceres, Dan Hearle, Ed Soph, and Brad Leali. HSPVA jazz ensembles have performed at numerous festivals including Essentially Ellington, Monterey Next Generation Jazz Festival, North Texas Jazz Festival, Crescent City Jazz Festival, Moores School of Music Jazz Festival, and the Longhorn Jazz Festival.

What is the audition process?

There are up to three stages to the audition process.

- Stage 1: Video audition
- Stage 2: Live audition
- Stage 3: Callback audition

Stage 1: Video audition – What should I prepare?

- Using a phone or other recording device, the student will make a VIDEO recording of himself or herself demonstrating the following:
 - Electric Guitar, Piano, Bass
 - 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, etc.)
 - Optional - If you are in a school jazz ensemble, you may additionally prepare a selection from your jazz ensemble repertoire (no more than 30 seconds). The selection should include both "comping" (from chord symbols) and "written-out" melodic material.

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- 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
- The quality of the video will not be taken into consideration. Using your phone is completely acceptable.
- The video should show only the student.
- Begin the video with "My name is _____. I will be in the ____ grade next year. (Do NOT include the name of your school in your video.)
- Make sure that the final version you submit represents your best work. Unlike a live audition, you are able to keep recording until you are satisfied.
- An audio only recording will NOT be accepted.
- 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)

How do I submit my video audition?

The deadline for submitting and uploading your audition video is December 22, 2017.

Desktop or Laptop:

1. Go to www.WeTransfer.com (WeTransfer is a FREE service. You do NOT need to upgrade to WeTransfer Plus.)
2. Click the "+" to add your file.
3. In "Email to" enter HSPVAjazz@gmail.com
4. In "Your email" enter the parent email address used on the application on hisdchoice.com
5. In "Message" enter "My name is _____. I will be in the ____ grade next year. Today, I will be playing _____"
6. Click "Transfer"
7. You will receive a confirmation email "Your files were sent successfully to hspvajazz@gmail.com"
8. Within 7 days, you should receive another email confirming that we have received and downloaded your video. ("hspvajazz@gmail.com downloaded your WeTransfer files")

WeTransfer also has free apps for Mac, iOS and Android. Please follow the same instructions as above.

If you are unable to record or upload a video for any reason, please contact Mr. Klein, Magnet Coordinator, to discuss alternatives. (jklein1@houstonisd.org)

Students will be notified by the Magnet Office no later than January 19 if they qualified for Stage 2. Live auditions will be scheduled for January 26 or 27, 2018.

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Stages 2 and 3: Live audition and Callback auditions

How long is the audition?

Approximately 10-15 minutes. Arrive at least 15 minutes prior to audition time.

What will I do at the audition?

1. Perform a standard tune 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 bring pre-recorded accompaniment (such as Jamey Aebersold Play-A-Longs, Band-in-a-Box, etc.)
2. Piano and Electric Guitar (optional for both)
 - If you are in a school jazz ensemble, prepare a selection (piano/guitar part) from your school jazz band repertoire. The selection should include both "comping" (from chord symbols) and "written-out" melodic material.Bass (optional)
 - If you are in a school jazz ensemble, prepare one or more tunes from the student's school jazz band repertoire. The part should include both "walking bass" lines and "written-out" melodic material.
3. Scales – All students should be prepared to play, by memory, major scales in the keys of: C, G, D, A, F, B-flat, and E-flat. All instruments should perform scales for at least two octaves and perform a two-octave chromatic scale by memory. Knowledge of minor scales and/or modes is not required, but will enhance the audition. Pianists should perform scales two hands with correct fingerings.
4. Chords – All students should display familiarity with the following chord structures in various keys: Major 7th, Dominant 7thsus4, Minor 7th, Minor 7thb5 (half-diminished), Diminished 7th, Major 9th, Dominant 9th, Dominant 9thsus4, Minor 9th.
5. Sight-reading – All students will be asked to sight-read two selections.

What should I bring to the audition?

- Electric guitarists and bassists: bring your instrument, electric guitar/bass amp, and cords.
- Pianists: Piano is provided.
- All musicians: Please bring one copy of all music to be performed for the audition panel.

Students will be notified by the Magnet Office no later than February 2 if they qualified for Stage 3. Callbacks will be on February 10.