



## Omaha Performing Arts Jazz Academy Ensemble Information Letter and Audition Requirements

### Welcome

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the Jazz Academy Middle School Ensemble! This honors ensemble provides middle school students from across the Omaha area an opportunity to improve their jazz performance abilities and to interact with area jazz students, professional Jazz musicians, and expert clinicians. This letter includes important information regarding participation in this ensemble. Please take the time to read the entire letter and familiarize yourself with the information included.

### Auditions

Audition requirements and procedures can be found on the following page. Audition recordings must be submitted by **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**. Audition material and submission instructions can be found at the link below.

<https://o-pa.org/learn-and-engage/student-programs/jazz-academy/jazz-academy-ensemble-audition-materials>

### Rehearsals and Performances

Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays from February 24<sup>th</sup> through May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:30pm. Please note that there will be no rehearsal on Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, but will instead be held on Sunday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. There will be no rehearsal on Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Performance dates:

- Sunday, May 5, 2024 at 6:00pm

\*Please note that additional performance dates may be added, and that dates and times are subject to change

### Location

Holland Performing Arts Center (1200 Douglas Street, Omaha, NE 68102)

### Cost

This program is **FREE** to all students that participate. There is no audition submission fee or tuition.

### Contact Information

Shawn Bell  
O-pa Teaching Artist  
[sbell@o-pa.org](mailto:sbell@o-pa.org)

Taylor Wyatt  
O-pa Education Manager  
[twyatt@o-pa.org](mailto:twyatt@o-pa.org)

Delaney Jackson  
O-pa Education Coordinator  
[djackson@o-pa.org](mailto:djackson@o-pa.org)

## **Audition Guidelines**

All students must submit the following material based on their instrument. **Incomplete submissions will not be considered.**

Each student (with the exception of drum set players, see below) will record 3 separate video clips for their audition. These clips will consist of 1) the prepared piece, 2) the Lab Band scale sheet or comping example, and 3) the improvisation example.

The prepared piece and scale sheet/comping should be played with no backing track; however, the improvisation example should be played with the Bb blues backing track that is provided.

**Students will upload their videos as “unlisted” videos** to a video sharing platform such as YouTube or Vimeo. Links to each video clip will then be shared as part of the student’s application.

Any questions or concerns about audition procedures can be directed to Shawn Bell and Taylor Wyatt.

## **Wind Instruments**

1. Alto/Baritone Sax
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of G (Bb concert) blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
2. Tenor Sax
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of C (Bb concert) blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
3. Trumpet
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of C (Bb concert) blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
4. Trombone
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track

## **Rhythm Section**

1. Piano
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Play 1 chorus of comping based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
2. Guitar
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Play 1 chorus of comping based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
3. Bass
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Play 1 chorus of walking bass based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 choruses of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
4. Drums (only submit 2 videos)
  - a. Jazz Academy Audition Etude B
  - b. Drum set audition sheet