



## **Welcome**

Hello students and parents,

Thank you for your interest in auditioning for the Jazz Academy Student 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 **February 4th**. Audition material and submission instructions can be found at the link below.

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

## **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals will be held on Saturdays from February 19th through April 30th from 10:00-11:30am. The rehearsal scheduled for Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> will move to Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup> and there will be no rehearsal on March 19th. Students can miss one rehearsal and still participate in the ensemble.

## **Location**

Holland Center  
1200 Douglas St.  
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, Teaching Artist  
[sbellmusic@gmail.com](mailto:sbellmusic@gmail.com)

Taylor Wyatt, Omaha Performing Arts' Education Manager  
[twyatt@o-pa.org](mailto:twyatt@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 or Taylor Wyatt.

## **Wind Instruments**

1. Alto/Baritone Sax
  - a. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus 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. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus 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. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus 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. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Lab Band Scale sheet
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus 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. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Play 1 chorus of comping based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
2. Guitar
  - a. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Play 1 chorus of comping based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus of Bb blues with play along
    - ii. Use Bb Blues play along included in audition material as a backing track
3. Bass
  - a. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Play 1 chorus of walking bass based on chords
  - c. Improvisation
    - i. 1 chorus 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. Off the Beaten Path
  - b. Drum set audition sheet