

UCM Jazz Ensembles Auditions Information – Fall, 2021

WIND AUDITIONS (AVAILABLE EITHER ONLINE OR LIVE)

LIVE AUDITION OPTION

All wind players (sax, trumpet, and trombone) opting to audition LIVE for a jazz ensemble will need to sign up for an audition time at the board outside of my office (Hudson-118). Auditions will be held the first three (3) days of classes (**Monday, August 16 – Wednesday, August 18**).

The audition process is very simple. You will be asked to play two (2) excerpts (something slow, with straight eighth notes and something in a medium swing feel). Music will be posted online very soon (although you could just come in and read them). **OPTIONAL:** If you would like to do some improvising, I will play piano for you. You are not required to bring in any prepared materials. However, if you really want to bring in something prepared, you may play that in addition to the reading. The whole audition takes no more than 10 minutes.

ONLINE AUDITION OPTION

I will include a link for the jazz auditions information form for you to fill out (see below). Music for the two (2) excerpts mentioned above plus a couple of accompaniments for those of you wanting to do some improvising as a part of your audition are in a shared folder on Google Drive.

You may then record yourself playing the audition pieces and share it with me.

Deadline: Wednesday, August 18th at 4:00 PM

Instructions for Online Jazz Auditions

1) Please use the following link to fill out the jazz auditions information form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScElFaN8jjNa8RVdS5MUQx_skRXuVaNYP0ePfyw77kz_sEUiQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

2) I have created a shared folder titled “Jazz Auditions: Fall, 2021.” Inside that folder are folders for each instrument, including pdfs of music and also accompaniment files. Here is the link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1prByry9HOjvQwkq12ARUXmTz2uzVJu23?usp=sharing>

Please share a video of you playing Aud Etude 1 (Ballad) and Swing Etude (Etude 2) with me at aaberg@ucmo.edu (Google Drive might work best for this). Please note, you are to play the etudes unaccompanied.

Optional: If interested, please also include an example of you improvising (with accompaniment). For your convenience, I have provided changes and accompaniment for Blues in concert F and concert G minor. If you prefer sending something else, that is fine with me. It is pretty easy to find backing tracks for many tunes on YouTube. Again, this step is **OPTIONAL**. If you are not comfortable improvising, no worries!

Also Optional: If you happen to have a short prepared piece that you believe really shows off your abilities well, you are welcome to share that (in addition to the etudes).

DEADLINE: Please share your videos by Wednesday, August 18th at 4:00 PM, if possible. Rehearsals will begin Thursday, August 19th.

RHYTHM SECTION AUDITIONS

LIVE AUDITION OPTION

Since rhythm section instruments do not create aerosol like wind instruments, I am planning to hold the rhythm section auditions live. If you have concerns with this, please let me know, and I will arrange a means for you to audition virtually.

Rhythm section auditions will be held in Utt-102B on **Tuesday, August 17th, 1:15 PM - 2:45 PM**. If you are available for only a portion of that time, please let me know, and then attend when you are able.

For these auditions, I will mix and match personnel. Here is what to expect on each instrument:
Guitar/Piano/Vibes: Comp chords, read some notated lines, solo on blues or other conventional changes.

Bass: Create bass lines from chord symbols, read some notated lines, solo on blues or other conventional changes.

Drums: Read drum charts for a couple of big band arrangements, playing and setting up notated figures, solo - trading 4's with the other rhythm section players, demonstrate your ability to play a number of different grooves.

The Groups/Meeting Times

MUS-1081: Jazz Ensemble 2

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM

MUS-4081: Jazz Ensemble 1

Tuesdays/Thursdays: 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM (does NOT conflict with Marching Band)

-and-

Fridays: 11:00 AM – 11:50 AM

In addition to the jazz ensembles, there are combo opportunities. Talk to Mr. James Isaac or to me, if you are interested in combos.

Dr. David E. Aaberg

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