

# Highland 2022/2023 Jazz Band Auditions

## Guitar

### General Information

There are two jazz bands at Highland Middle School. These ensembles, Jazz 1 and Jazz 2, use “traditional” jazz band instruments (saxophones, trumpets, trombones, guitar, piano, bass, and drums). An audition is required in order to be considered for Jazz 1 and Jazz 2, but does not guarantee placement. Exact dates for the auditions and extra-help sessions will be posted outside the band room at the beginning of the year. They will also be available on the jazz audition website (<https://bit.ly/HighlandJazz>).

Every seat in each jazz band is open at the start of the school year. Placement in either jazz band as a 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grader does not guarantee placement in that same band or a higher band the following year.

### Directions for the Music

Attached to this note is the audition material for next year’s jazz auditions. Included are portions of songs that Jazz 1 will be performing. Do not worry if some of it seems difficult. The audition material must challenge students from grades 6 through 8. The first selection is a swing tune called, “Blues of a Different Color.” Play this selection in a swing style (uneven eighth notes and hard accents). The second selection is a Latin tune called, “No Hablo Espanol.” Play this selection with straight eighth notes and hard accents. Metronome markings are indicated for each selection. If these are too fast for you it is O.K. to audition at a slower tempo, but students performing well at the correct speed will score higher than students playing well at a slower speed.

### Special Note to Guitar Players

Guitar is a difficult instrument and students often start learning guitar when they are older than students who start learning “regular” band instruments. While it is wonderful to have a guitar player in a middle school jazz band, it is not very common. Some years a student auditions well enough to be placed into a jazz band, but often guitar players do not yet have the skills necessary to have a positive experience in a school jazz band. The jazz teachers at Highland are glad to have guitar players in their ensembles, but none of us play guitar and are therefore unable to help the guitar players. Only students who come in with a strong understanding of note and chord reading will be placed into a jazz band.

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In order to be considered for a jazz band, guitarists need to be able do the following things:

1. Play in tune.
2. Tune their instrument themselves.
3. Read standard musical notation (not just tab).
4. Read chord symbols and play at least two different voicings for every chord in the audition materials (without the help of tab).
5. Provide a small and good-sounding amplifier for rehearsals and performances (It may be stored in the band room during the school day).

## **Listening to the Music**

Recordings of this music are available online - See the jazz audition website (<https://bit.ly/HighlandJazz>) for the link.

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Guitar

There are two songs for this audition.

### #1 "Blues of a Different Color" -- Beach/Shutack

#### Special Note

Below is the melody from "Blues of a Different Color". At your audition you will first play this melody. This part of the audition will be used to show off your "swing style" and your ability to read melodies.

Swing ♩ = 120

*f*

*mf*

5

10

16

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Guitar

There are two songs for this audition.

### #1 "Blues of a Different Color" -- Beach/Shutack

#### Special Note

Below is the guitar part from "Blues of a Different Color" starting at the beginning of the song. This part of the audition will show off your ability to play a typical guitar part on a swing tune. You should play steady quarter notes throughout the slash notation. Play your own voicings for the chord symbols given. You will play this music twice, and should be prepared to use at least two different chord voicings for each chord symbol. Use one set of voicings the first time through, and a different set the second time through. Be prepared to answer questions about which notes you used in your voicings and why. If you are prepared to perform more than two sets of voicings let Mr. Swartzloff know.

**Swing** ♩ = 120

The guitar part is written on five staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as Swing, ♩ = 120. The music consists of steady quarter notes indicated by slashes. Chord symbols are placed above the staves: Dmi9, Eb9, Dmi9, A+7(#9) on the first staff; Dmi9, Emi7(b5), Dmi9, A+7 on the second staff (starting at measure 5); Dmi9, Dmi9, Dmi9, Dmi9 on the third staff (starting at measure 9); Gmi9, Gmi9, Dmi9, Dmi9 on the fourth staff (starting at measure 13); and Emi7(b5), A+7(#9), Dmi9, A+7 on the fifth staff (starting at measure 17). The piece ends with a double bar line at the end of the fifth staff.

Dmi9 Eb9 Dmi9 A+7(#9)

5 Dmi9 Emi7(b5) Dmi9 A+7

9 Dmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9

13 Gmi9 Gmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9

17 Emi7(b5) A+7(#9) Dmi9 A+7

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Guitar

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

### #2 "No Hablo Espanol" - Kris Berg

#### Special Note:

This guitar part, like many jazz band guitar parts, combines printed notes and "comp" rhythms with chord symbols. Please observe the tempo marking. Play your own voicings for the chord symbols given. Be able to voice measures 17 - 24 with at least two different sets of chord voicings. At your audition be prepared to explain which notes you chose in your voicings and why. Students who are able to voice chords successfully and keep a steady beat may be placed into a jazz band. Most students who have not had jazz training will not be able to do these things.

Latin ♩ = 146

*mf*

5

9

13

Cm9 F13 Cm9 Gb13 F13

17

Fm9 Bb13 Ebm9 Ab9 G+7(#9) Ab13 G+7(#9) G+7(#9) Cm7

21