Highland 2023/2024 Jazz Band Auditions Piano

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/HMSjazz).

Every seat in each jazz band is open at the start of the school year. Placement in either jazz band as a 6th or 7th 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. <u>Unfortunately, if more than four students audition, not all of them will be placed into a jazz band. Each jazz band will take only up to two pianists.</u> The first selection is a swing tune called, "Four." Play this selection in a swing style (uneven eighth notes and hard accents). The second selection is a Latin tune called, "La Noche del Burrito Picante." Play this 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.

Listening to the Music

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

**** Special Piano Notes ****

- 1. Students who are comfortable with chord symbols and chord voicing are encouraged to try different voicing than the ones suggested in these selections. These students should make it clear to the band teachers that they are using their own voicing when they take their audition. Students unfamiliar with this technique should not worry about it, though it is an important skill to learn in the future.
- 2. Students who are unable to play both hands at the same time may audition one hand at a time. Students who are able to play both hands at once (well and at the correct tempo) will score higher than students who must play one hand at a time.

Piano

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each has two parts.

#1 "Four" - Melody

Special Note:

In the first part of the audition, you will play the melody on this page. This will show off your "swing style" and ability to play right hand melodies. You only need to play the first 15 measures of this song in order to audition. Those students who play the entire song well will score higher than those students who only play the first 15 measures.



Piano

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each has two parts.

<u>#1 "Four"</u>

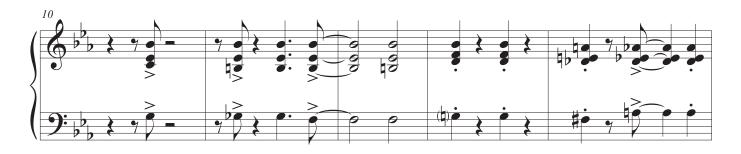
Special Note:

Below is an excerpt from the actual piano part from "Four". When you get to measure 4 of this piano part, Mr. Swartzloff will begin playing the melody on his saxophone (corresponding with the first 15 measures of the right hand melody page). Your rhythms should be played as printed in the music. You may change the voicings if you would like. You and/or your private teacher may simplify any of the chord voicings if that will help you (the voicings provided here are the actual voicings from "Four").











Piano - Page #3 of 4

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#2 "La Noche del Burrito Picante"

Special Note

Below is the melody from "La Noche...". At your audition you will first play this melody. This part of the audition will be used to show off your ability to play melodies with straight eighth notes and right hand melodies with various articulations.

HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL J=152-160



#2 - "La Noche del Burrito Picante" Piano

Page #4 of 4

Special Note

Below is an excerpt from the actual piano part from "La Noche...". When you begin, Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody on his saxophone. Your rhythms should be played as printed, and you should "comp" in measures 13-16. You may change the voicings if you would like to. You and/or your private teacher may simplify any of the chord voicings if that will help you.



