

Highland 2022/2023 Jazz Band Auditions

Percussion (must include mallets & drum set)

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 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. 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 drummers. The first selection is a swing tune called, “Blues of a Different Color.” Play this selection in a swing style, meaning that the eighth notes are swung and that the bass drum is very light. Feel free to make changes to the drum set part. Drum parts for jazz tunes are mere suggestions of what should happen. The hi-hat should be played on beats two and four throughout this selection. 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.

Bells - Xylophone - Vibes

All students auditioning to play drums in the Highland Jazz Bands are expected to audition on drum set and bells/xylophone/vibes. The music for these mallet instruments is included in the audition materials. Students may choose to perform the mallet portion of the audition on one of the large, school-owned instruments, or on their own bell kits. Students’ performances on these mallet selections are often what separates the good from the great players.

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

Percussion

There are two songs for this audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

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

Special Note

In the first part of the audition you will play the melody on this page on a mallet instrument, (either bells or xylophone -- your choice). This will show off your ability to play a mallet instrument and your ability to understand swing melodies. This melody is from the same part of the music you will then play on the drum set.

Swing ♩ = 120

The musical score is written in treble clef, key of B-flat major (two flats), and common time (C). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The second staff begins with a measure rest and ends with a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The third staff begins with a measure rest. The fourth staff begins with a measure rest and ends with a double bar line. The melody is characterized by eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together, and includes various articulations such as accents and slurs. The tempo is indicated as Swing with a quarter note equal to 120 beats per minute.

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Percussion

There are two songs for this audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

#1 "Blues of a Different Color" -- Drum Set

Special Note

In this part of the audition you will play the drum set. It is the first 20 measures from "Blues of a Different Color." This is the same section you will play on a mallet instrument in your audition. The slash marks mean to play a swing-style beat. The little notes above the slashes indicate parts of the music which should be brought out. These are often referred to as "hits". Sometimes the hits are part of the melody and sometimes they are ideas of how to add to the melody. You are encouraged to set up and play these hits in ways you think are appropriate. Practicing the mallet part to this section will help you choose how to play the swing style, solo fill, and hits. During the drum set portion of your audition Mr. Swartzloff will play the melodies on his saxophone. You will be evaluated on how well you are able to play with him.

Swing ♩ = 120

f

6

time

Ride

mf

11

16

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Percussion

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

#2 "No Hablo Espanol" - Kris Berg

Special Note:

In the first part of the audition, you will play the melody from this page on a mallet instrument (either bells or xylophone - your choice). This will show off your ability to play a mallet instrument and your ability to understand swing melodies.

You only need to play the first 4 lines 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 four lines.

Latin ♩ = 146

mf

5

9

13

17

f

21

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Percussion

There are two songs for this jazz audition. Each includes a bells/mallets part and a drum set part.

#2 "No Hablo Espanol" - Kris Berg

Special Note

This is an excerpt from the drum set part to "No Hablo Espanol". These measures correspond to the measures from the mallet portion of the audition (the first measure of the mallet audition is a 2 beat pick up). The latin beat given is merely a suggestion. You may use this beat, or you may create your own. During this part of the audition, you will play your latin beat on the drum set and Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody on his saxophone. One of the things you will be evaluated on is how well you play with him.

Latin ♩ = 146

The musical notation is written on four staves, each representing a 4-measure phrase. The first staff (measures 1-4) features a mallet part with eighth notes and rests, and a drum set part with a Latin rhythm indicated by 'x' marks above the notes. The second staff (measures 5-8) shows a mallet part with eighth notes and rests, and a drum set part with a Latin rhythm indicated by 'x' marks above the notes. The third staff (measures 9-12) shows a mallet part with eighth notes and rests, and a drum set part with a Latin rhythm indicated by 'x' marks above the notes. The fourth staff (measures 13-16) shows a mallet part with eighth notes and rests, and a drum set part with a Latin rhythm indicated by 'x' marks above the notes. The notation includes various musical symbols such as eighth notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'f' and 'p'.