

# Highland 2022/2023 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/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. 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. 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.

### Listening to the Music

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

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Piano

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

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

#### Special Note:

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

Swing ♩ = 120

*f*

*mf*

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Piano

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

#### Special Note

Below is the piano part to "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 piano part on a swing tune. When you get to measure 9, Mr. Swartzloff will begin playing the melody on his saxophone. You may simply play the whole notes (as marked), or you may make up your own rhythms. You may play the notes ("voicings") which are written out, or you may change these voicings. When you change rhythms and voicings to match the melody (or soloist) you are "comping". If this technique is unfamiliar to you that is O.K. Simply play some or all of the whole notes as marked. However, those students who show that they are successfully able to "comp" will score higher than those students who do not show off this skill.

Swing ♩ = 120

Dmi9 Eb9 Dmi9 A+7(#9) Dmi9 Emi7(b5) A+7

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-6) starts with a forte (f) dynamic. The second system (measures 7-13) starts at measure 7 and includes a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic marking. The third system (measures 14-20) starts at measure 14. Chord voicings are indicated above the staves, and some measures include specific voicing diagrams. The score ends with a double bar line at measure 20.

7

Dmi9 A+7 Dmi9 comp Dmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9 Gmi9

14

Gmi9 Dmi9 Dmi9 Emi7(b5) A+7(#9) Dmi9 A+7

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2022

## Piano

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

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

#### Special Note:

This part of the audition will be used to show off your "swing style" and ability to play right hand 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

The musical score is written for the right hand in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked as Latin with a quarter note equal to 146 beats per minute. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a measure rest followed by a half note G4, then a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The second staff starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The third staff continues with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The fourth staff begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The fifth staff starts with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The sixth staff begins with a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note Bb4, a half note C5, a quarter note Bb4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note G4, and a half note F#4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings like *mf* and *f*.

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## Piano

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

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

#### Special Note:

These measures line up with the melody you played in the first part of the audition starting from measure 2 (measure 1 is a 2-beat pick up). As you play this part of the audition, Mr. Swartzloff will play that melody on his saxophone along with you.

Latin ♩ = 146

Measures 1-5 of the piano part for "No Hablo Espanol". The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The first measure starts with a 2-beat pick up. The dynamic marking *mf* is present in the first measure. The notation features a mix of chords and single notes, with some notes beamed together.

Measures 6-10 of the piano part. Measure 6 is marked with a '6' above the staff. The notation continues with various chords and melodic lines, including some notes with accents (^) and slurs.

Measures 11-15 of the piano part. Measure 11 is marked with an '11' above the staff. The notation concludes with a final chord in measure 15, marked with a double bar line.