

Highland 2023/2024 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/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. 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 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/HMSjazz>) for the link.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Guitar

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#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 read melodies.

Swing ♩ = 144

The musical score is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as Swing ♩ = 144. The score consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a whole rest, followed by eighth notes, marked *mf*. The second staff continues the eighth-note pattern. The third staff features dotted quarter notes and eighth notes. The fourth staff concludes with a crescendo leading to a final *f* dynamic.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Guitar

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#1 "Four" - Guitar Part

Special Note:

Below are the first 19 measures from the actual guitar part to "Four". This part uses "comp" rhythms with chord symbols. Play your own voicings for the chord symbols given. 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.

Swing ♩ = 144

AbMA7 Gmi7 F#mi7 Fmi7 Bb7(b9) Eb6/Eb EbMA7

5

9

13

17

f *mf*

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Guitar

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 "latin style" and your ability to read melodies.

HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL ♩=152-160

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The melody is characterized by a driving, rhythmic feel with many eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure numbers 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the sixth staff.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Guitar

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#2 "La Noche del Burrito Picante"

Special Note

Below is part of the actual guitar part for "La Noche...". This guitar part, like many jazz band guitar parts, combines slash notation with "comp" rhythms/chord symbols. Please observe the time signature and tempo marking. Play your own voicings for the chord symbols given. Be able to voice these measures 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.

HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL ♩=152-160

G-6/9 D7(b9) 2

5 2 G-6/9 D7(#5 #9)

9 G min6 D7(b9) G min6

13 C min7 D7(b9) G min6

17 Eb9 D7(#5 b9) C min9 Bb13

21 A7(#5) D7(#5 #9) G-6/9 D7(#5 #9)