

# 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 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, “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.

### Listening to the Music

Recordings of this music are available online - See the jazz audition website (<https://bit.ly/HMSjazz>) 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 2023

## 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.

Swing ♩ = 144

mf

6

11

f

16

21

25

29

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

## Piano

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

### #1 "Four"

#### 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").

Swing ♩ = 144

Musical notation for measures 1-4 of the piano part for "Four". The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features complex chord voicings and melodic lines. The left hand provides a bass line with eighth and quarter notes. The piece concludes with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

Musical notation for measures 5-9 of the piano part for "Four". The right hand continues with intricate voicings and melodic patterns. The left hand maintains a steady bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes.

Musical notation for measures 10-14 of the piano part for "Four". The right hand features a variety of chord voicings and melodic lines. The left hand continues with a consistent bass line.

Musical notation for measures 15-19 of the piano part for "Four". The right hand includes a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic section. The left hand concludes with a bass line that includes a half note and quarter notes.

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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 ♩=152-160

The musical score consists of six staves of music in 4/4 time, written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked as 'HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL' with a quarter note equal to 152-160 beats per minute. The melody is primarily composed of eighth notes and quarter notes, with various articulations such as accents and slurs. The score begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4. The second staff contains measures 5 through 8. The third staff contains measures 9 through 12. The fourth staff contains measures 13 through 16. The fifth staff contains measures 17 through 20. The sixth staff contains measures 21 through 24, ending with a double bar line. The key signature is maintained throughout the piece.

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#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.

### Hard Driving Latin Feel ♩ = 152

The piano score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). It consists of five systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The first system (measures 1-4) starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a driving Latin feel with eighth-note patterns. Chords G-6/9 and D7(b9) are indicated above the first two measures. The second system (measures 5-8) includes chords G-6/9, D7(#5 #9), G min6, and D7(b9). A mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic is marked in measure 6. The third system (measures 9-12) includes chords G min6, C min7, D7(b9), and G min6. Measure 10 is marked with a double bar line and the word "(Comp)" in the bass staff, indicating a comping section. The fourth system (measures 13-16) includes chords Eb9, D7(#5 b9), C min9, and Bb13. The fifth system (measures 17-20) includes chords A7(#5), D7(#5 #9), G-6/9, and D7(#5 #9). The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 20.