

# Highland 2023/2024 Jazz Band Auditions

## Bass

### 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 bass players. 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.

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

## Bass

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

### #1 "Four"

#### Special Note:

Below are instructions for a "basic audition" and an "advanced audition". Students new to jazz, or unfamiliar with creating their own bass lines should simply play the "basic audition". Students who perform a good advanced audition will be placed into a higher jazz band than students who perform a good basic audition.

#### Basic Audition:

The music below is the first 20 measures of the actual bass part to "Four". In a good swing style, the bass player should play beats 2 and 4 with more emphasis than beats 1 and 3.

#### Advanced Audition:

Students with jazz training should play through measures 5-20 as many time as they would like to. They should play it as written the first time. With each repeat, these more advanced jazz bassists should create a new bass line from the chord symbols.

Swing ♩ = 144

*f*  
EbMA7 Bbmi7 Eb9

5

*mf*  
AbMA7 Abmi7 Db9

9

13 EbMA7 F#mi7 B9 Fmi7 Bb9 Bb7(b9)

17 EbMA7 F#mi7 B9 Fmi7 Bb9

*f*

# Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

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There are two songs for this jazz audition.

### #2 "La Noche del Burrito Picante"

#### Special Note:

Below are instructions for a "basic audition" and an "advanced audition". Students new to jazz, or unfamiliar with creating their own bass lines should simply play the "basic audition." Students who perform a good advanced audition will be placed into a higher jazz band than students who perform a good basic audition.

#### Basic Audition:

The music below is from the actual bass part to "La Noche...". Please observe the time signature and tempo marking. This is long, but very repetitive.

#### Advanced Audition:

First play through the basic audition. Next, go back and repeat the music while creating your own bass line. Use the chord symbols and keep the bass line in a Latin feel. You may repeat as many times as you would like to to show off what you can do with chord symbols.

**HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL** ♩=152-160

The image shows a bass line for the song "La Noche del Burrito Picante". It consists of six staves of music in 6/8 time, with a tempo of 152-160 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The music is repetitive and features a Latin feel. Chord symbols are placed above the notes. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21 are indicated at the start of their respective staves. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

Chord symbols: G-6/9, D7(b9), G-6/9, D7(b9), G-6/9, D7(b9), D7(#5 #9), G min6, D7(b9), G min6, C min7, D7(b9), G min6, Eb9, D7(#5 b9), C min9, Bb13, A7(#5), D7(#5 #9), G-6/9, D7(#5 #9).