

Highland 2023/2024 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/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. 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, “Four.” 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, “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.

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/HMSjazz>) for the link.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Percussion

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

#1 "Four" - Bells

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. 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

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a *mf* dynamic marking. The second staff is marked with a measure number '6'. The third staff is marked with a measure number '11' and a *f* dynamic marking. A dashed line separates the third staff from the fourth, which is marked with a measure number '16' and a *f* dynamic marking. The fifth staff is marked with a measure number '21'. The sixth staff is marked with a measure number '25'. The seventh staff is marked with a measure number '29' and ends with a double bar line.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Percussion

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

#1 "Four" - Drum Set

Special Note

In this part of the audition, you will play the drum set. The slash marks mean to play a swing-style beat. When you get to measure 4 of this part, Mr. Swartzloff will begin playing the melody on his saxophone (corresponding with the first 15 measures of your mallet audition). You will be evaluated on how well you are able to play with him.

Swing ♩ = 144

The score is for a drum set in 4/4 time, swing feel, with a tempo of 144. It consists of three systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-5) features a snare drum (S.D.) part with a melody of eighth notes and a bass drum (B.D.) part with a swing-style beat. A ride cymbal (Ride Cym.) part is indicated above the staff. The second system (measures 6-13) shows a hi-hat (H.H.) part with a steady eighth-note pattern, marked with a dynamic of *mf*. The third system (measures 14-15) shows a final section with a dynamic of *ff*. Measure numbers 1, 6, and 14 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

Ride Cym.

S.D.

B.D.

H.H.

f

mf

ff

1

6

14

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Percussion - Page #3 of 4

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

#2 "La Noche del Burrito Picante"

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).

HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL ♩=152-160

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a double bar line and a key signature change to one flat. The second staff starts with a measure number '5' and includes a sharp sign (#) above the first measure. The third staff starts with a measure number '9'. The fourth staff starts with a measure number '13'. The fifth staff starts with a measure number '17'. The sixth staff starts with a measure number '21' and ends with a double bar line. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests. There are also some accidentals (sharps and flats) and dynamic markings (accents) throughout the piece.

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2023

Percussion

Page #4 of 4

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

#2 "La Noche del Burrito Picante"

Special Note

This is an excerpt from the drum set part to "La Noche..." The measure numbers here correspond to the measure numbers from the mallet portion of the audition. 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.

HARD DRIVING LATIN FEEL ♩ = 152

CYM CROWN

1 2 3 4

5 6 7

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24

f *mf*

FILL 2