

Highland 2024/2025 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 rhythm section instruments only in Jazz 2. 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. 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 ballad called, “Prayer Meetin’.” Play this selection with straight eighth notes. The second selection is a Latin tune called, “Children of Sanchez.” 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 2024

Piano

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

#1 "Prayer Meetin'"

Below is the melody from "Prayer Meetin'". At your audition, you will play this part first. It will show off your ability to play right hand melodies.

Gospel/Pop Ballad ♩ = 69

mf

5

9

13

Highland Jazz Auditions September 2024

Piano

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

#1 "Prayer Meetin'"

Special Note:

Below is an excerpt from "Prayer Meetin'". It corresponds with the last 8 measures of the melody you performed in the first part of your audition. As you play these measures, Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody on his saxophone along with you.

Gospel/Pop Ballad ♩ = 69

The musical score is written for piano in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It consists of two systems of two staves each (treble and bass clef). The first system contains measures 1 through 4, and the second system contains measures 5 through 8. The music features a mix of chords and melodic lines, with some measures containing rests. The tempo is marked as 69 beats per minute.

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#2 "Children of Sanchez" - Melody Piano

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

Special Note:

Below is the melody from "Children of Sanchez". 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.

MEDIUM LATIN ♩ = 112

The musical score is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and contains a series of eighth notes with accents. The second staff continues the eighth-note pattern with various articulations. The third staff features a dynamic marking of *f* and includes some notes with slurs and accents. The fourth and fifth staves show a transition to a more melodic line with dotted rhythms and eighth notes, ending with a double bar line.

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"Children of Sanchez" - Piano Part

Piano

Special Note

Below is an excerpt from the actual piano part from "Children of Sanchez". On beat 4 of the second measure below, Mr. Swartzloff will play the melody on his saxophone (the melody from the previous melody page, starting at the pick up to measure 10). Your rhythms should be played as printed, and if you know how, you should "comp" in measures 3-10. 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.

Medium Latin ♩ = 112 D \flat E \flat F m F m G \flat F m

6 B \flat mi7 F m

12 G \flat F m B \flat mi7

16 B \flat mi7 Cmi7 D \flat E \flat F m