Highland 2026/2027 Jazz Band Auditions
Baritone Saxophone

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 either band, with the exception that 6th grade saxophone, trumpet, and trombone students may be invited into Jazz 2 without an audition. 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, "May's Way." Play this selection in a swing style (uneven eighth notes and hard accents). The second selection is a Latin tune called, "Brazil Nuts." 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 2026

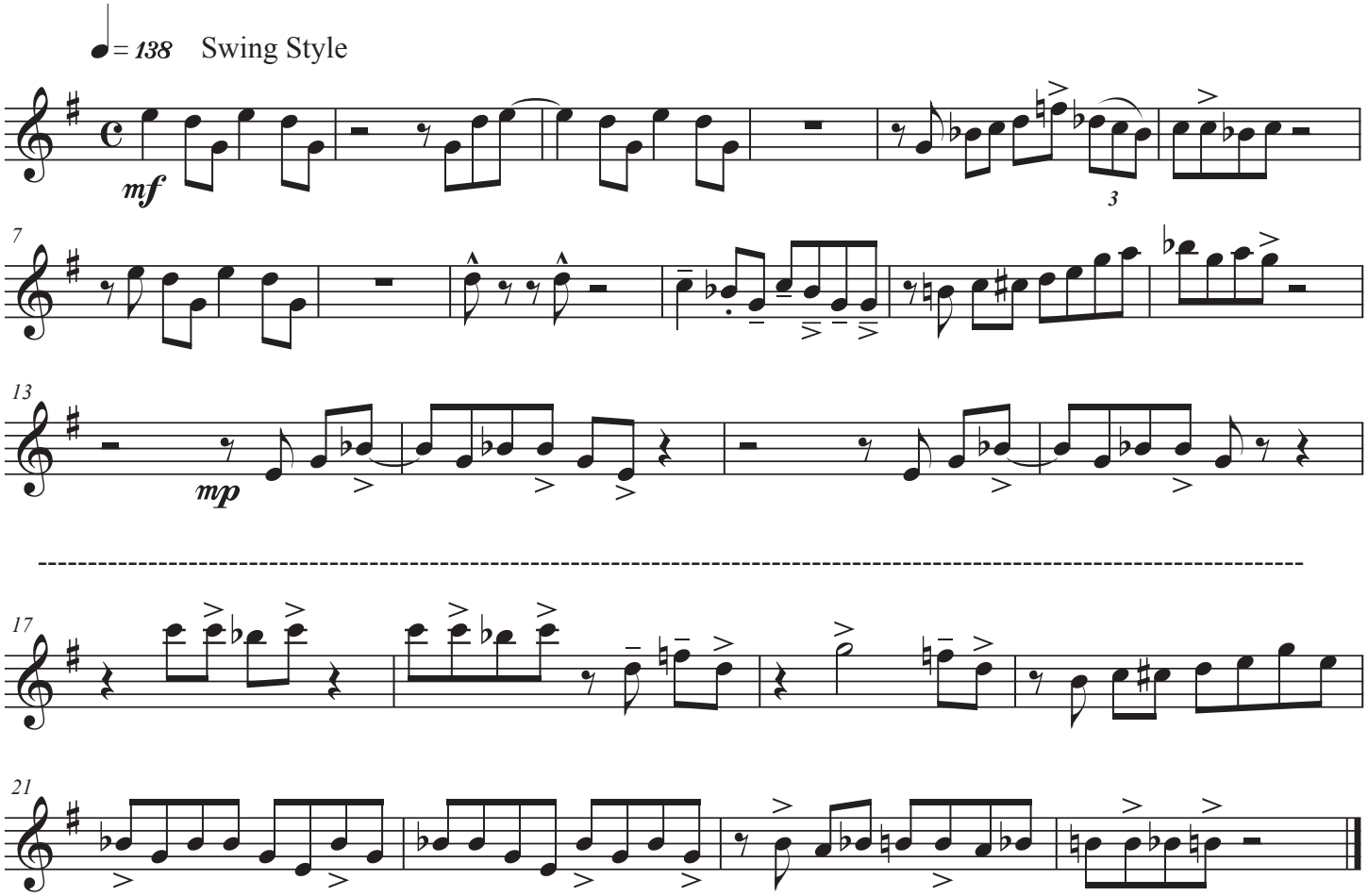
Baritone Saxophone

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#1 "May's Way" -- Jeff Jarvis

Special Note

You only need to play the first 16 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 16 measures. Students should audition at a tempo where they can perform well. Higher scores will be given to those students who play up to tempo WELL.



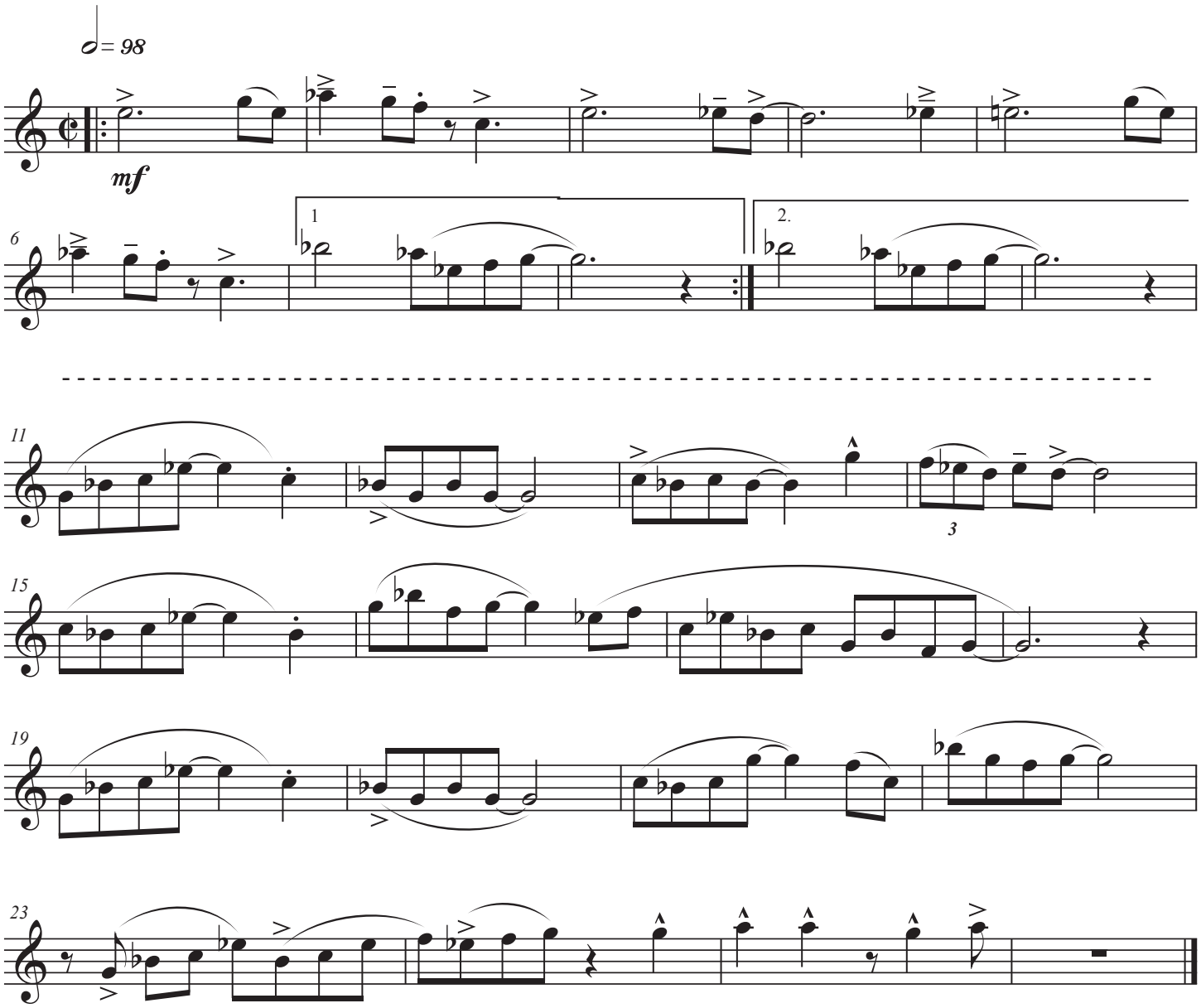
Highland Jazz Auditions September 2026

Baritone Saxophone

There are two songs for this jazz audition.

#2 "Brazil Nuts"

Special Note

You only need to play the first 10 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 10 measures.

Latin "Samba" Style