



Instrumental Jazz Ensemble Audition Guidance Sheet

These auditions are for placement in the two large Jazz Ensembles and several Jazz Combos

Jazz Ensemble rehearsals are held in Capistrano Concert Hall

- Jazz Ensemble I (MUSC 143J - 01) rehearsals are on Tuesday & Thursday from 1:30 – 2:45 pm
- Jazz Ensemble II (MUSC 143J - 02) rehearsals are on Tuesday & Thursday from 3:00 – 4:20 pm

Jazz Combos assignments and rehearsal times will be based on student and instructor schedules.

Audition Day Procedures:

- Please arrive ready to play – be warmed up prior to your arrival
- Have your instrument out of its case and ready to play before going into your audition – take only yourself, your instrument, and your music into the audition
- Give yourself plenty of time to do everything (i.e. get up early, have a leisurely meal, arrive early to the audition)
- Once you enter the audition space, put your music on the stand provided
- Once in the audition, please introduce yourself to the panel members
- Play to your own standards; don't try to guess how the committee would like something performed
- Once finished, thank the panel, ensure you have everything you came in with, head out of the room, and have a nice day

Reminders and Helpful Hints:

- Please note all ensemble rehearsal schedules and plan to accommodate your own schedule accordingly
- Avoid over-practicing, which may cause nerve problems and fatigue
- Maintain a positive appearance even if you do not think you played well
- Present a professional image (you get only one chance to make a first impression)

- Take control of the situation (plan what you are going to play and do)
- Dress for the occasion – be professional
- Make sure your instrument and reeds are working properly
- Introduce yourself and your repertoire
- Get the committee's attention
- Speak clearly and look people in the eye
- Know correct pronunciations of composers and compositions and key signature
- Demonstrate your ability, facility and sensitivity
- Communicate if you have a legitimate problem (long before the audition)

Tips and Suggestions for Sight Reading:

- **Examine The Piece You're Sight-Reading:** Before you begin to play, take a moment to mentally digest the music in front of you. Acknowledge the key signature, tap or internalize any rhythms, browse through the notes and observe any accidentals, and follow the formal structure of the excerpt.
- **Breathe, Relax and Keep Going, Even If You Make a Mistake:** Sight-reading isn't meant to be perfect. And just like anything else you do, the more you practice, the better you will get! So don't focus on the mistakes that you make during the performance, and don't feel as though you must stop and correct them. Just *keep going*, do the best you can, and remember that by testing your abilities as a musician, you are making yourself better in the long run.

What NOT to do:

- Do not wear shorts, jeans, hats, sunglasses, flip-flops, etc.
- Do not make excuses or apologies (for anything)
- Do not draw attention to problems (the committee may not notice)

What NOT to say:

- "I haven't warmed up."
- "I'm not prepared."
- "I haven't had a chance to practice."
- "I didn't know..."
- "I just got this horn."
- "What should I play?"
- "What would you like to hear?"
- "I don't have my instrument/sticks/cymbals/patch cords, etc.."
- "I didn't bring any music."
- "Nobody told me..."