



JazzArts Charlotte Youth Ensembles + Workshops

Placement Audition Requirements

Placement auditions are for the purpose of placing students into groups of similar skillsets. Students entering grades 7-12, with at least one (1) year experience in a school band or private music lessons are eligible. Once the application materials have been received, students will be assigned an audition date and time. Auditions are conducted on an individual basis with each slot being approximately ten minutes in length.

All applicants should be prepared to demonstrate the following:

WOOWINDS, BRASS, GUITAR, PIANO, BASS, AND MISC. INSTRUMENTS

1. **SCALES:** Major Scales and Chromatic Scale (these scales may be chosen at random by the JazzArts Charlotte faculty). Advanced students may be asked to play other various scales (Modes, minor scales, blues scales, etc.).
2. **SONG OF CHOICE:** one (1) to two (2) songs of the student's choice. For new students, jazz selections are highly encouraged and preferred. Below is a short list of suggested jazz songs. Returning JazzArts students must select and perform songs from standard jazz repertoire.
 - a. **BLUES:** Sonny Moon for Two (B-flat), Now's the Time (F), C-Jam Blues (C) or any standard 12-bar blues of your choice.
 - b. **STANDARD:** Autumn Leaves, Take the A Train, There Will Never Be Another You, or a standard song of your choice.
 - c. **LATIN:** Blue Bossa, Song for My Father, Black Orpheus, St. Thomas, or a Latin song of your choice.
3. **SIGHT READING:** A short excerpt *may* be provided to the student during the audition.
4. **EAR TRAINING ASSESSMENT:** A short ear training/pitch matching exercise *may* be administered.
5. **IMPROVISATION:** Improvisation is highly encouraged and preferred. While not required, preference *may* be given to students who demonstrate improvisation during their audition. See song choice suggestions in section 2 above.

ACCOMPANIMENT

Prepared recorded accompaniment is encouraged for practice and during the audition process. iRealPro (www.irealpro.com), Aebersold play-a-longs (www.jazzbooks.com), and www.learnjazzstandards.com are recommended resources. A JazzArts instructor *may* accompany a student in lieu of a recording play-a-long.

ADDITIONAL RHYTHM SECTION NOTES:

Bass players should be able to play the melodies to their selections, improvise, and "walk" bass lines. Guitar and piano players will be expected to play the melodies, improvise, and "comp." Drummers will also be asked to demonstrate basic rudiments (roll, paradiddle, etc.) as well as perform various styles such as swing (multiple tempos), bossa, samba, rock, & funk.

BEGINNERS

While all students will be assessed based on their individual skill level, the **minimum** repertoire performed for the audition *must* be (Concert) Bb, Eb, and F scales. Preference *may* be given to students who meet the requirements in sections 1-5 above.

Questions may be directed to Dr. Patrick Brown, Education Director, at pbrown@thejazzarts.org