

“JAZZ AT THE BEACH” INSTRUMENTAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Undergraduate auditions occur in November, February and March. Students already admitted to the university may also audition for acceptance to the Jazz Studies area the week before the fall semester begins. Currently enrolled music majors can audition during fall and spring juries. Graduate auditions are held in early March. If you wish to schedule an audition, please call Arnel Ignacio in the music office at (562) 985-4782. If unavoidable circumstances prevent your attendance at our regularly scheduled auditions, contact the Jazz Studies Office at (562) 985-4784 to schedule a special audition.

Brass, Percussion, and Woodwind Candidates for the B.M. in Jazz Studies

In addition to admission to the university, **all freshmen and undergraduate transfer candidates who play wind instruments and percussion must pass classical performance auditions administered by the brass, woodwind, or percussion areas respectively ... even if you plan to major in Jazz Studies.** At your classical audition, inform the panel of your plans to major in Jazz Studies when eligible. If you are slightly deficient as a classical player, the panel may refer you to the Jazz Studies area for a second audition that may facilitate acceptance. The Jazz Studies program does not accept recorded auditions.

For classical audition repertoire, follow the links below:

Brass: <http://www.csulb.edu/~music/brass/auditions.html>

Woodwinds: <http://www.csulb.edu/~music/woodwinds/auditions.html>

Percussion: <http://www.csulb.edu/~music/percussion/auditions.html>

During the spring juries of the sophomore year, music majors are evaluated for advancement to Upper Division. Students wishing to pursue a B.M. in Performance with a concentration in Jazz Studies should consult with the Director of Jazz Studies prior to Upper Division Screening to schedule an entrance audition. This is often administered during the jury procedure. More information on this process can be accessed from the Bob Cole Conservatory home page (Home>Jazz>Audition Information).

Jazz Guitar, Jazz Piano, and Jazz Bass Candidates for the B.M. in Jazz Studies

In addition to admission to the university freshmen and undergraduate transfer students who play these instruments are required to pass a jazz audition. A classical audition is not required. More information on this process can be accessed from the Bob Cole Conservatory home page (Home>Jazz>Audition Information). The Jazz Studies program does not accept recorded auditions.

Candidates for the M.M. in Jazz Studies

In addition to admission to the university, all candidates for the graduate program in Jazz Studies at the Bob Cole Conservatory are required to pass a jazz audition. Saxophonists should be prepared to demonstrate proficient woodwind doubling skills. *Important: Jazz*

theory, jazz arranging, and jazz piano skills are a vital component of the evaluation process. More information on this process can be accessed from the Bob Cole Conservatory home page (Home>Jazz>Audition Information). The Jazz Studies program does not accept recorded auditions.

During jazz auditions applicants are evaluated on sightreading, jazz concept, musicianship, and jazz improvisation. Whether auditioning for entrance into the Jazz Studies area or for a position in a Cole Conservatory jazz ensemble, choose selections that best demonstrate **college level** jazz skills. During the sightreading portion of the auditions applicants are asked to perform brief excerpts from etudes or exercises, sometimes with an accompaniment recording that we provide.

In addition to entrance auditions, big band placement auditions are held the week before the start of the fall semester.

Admission to the various instrumental jazz groups is open to all CSULB students taking six or more credits. You do not have to be a jazz major or music major to participate in jazz ensembles. However, if two or more applicants are equally qualified for a particular position, Jazz Studies majors will get priority.

Audition Repertoire

Wind Players

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune and improvise to the chord changes, preferably from memory. You should perform the tunes with accompaniment tracks or live musicians. **The Jazz Studies area does not provide accompaniment tracks or musicians for auditions.** As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude accompanied by a recording that we provide to evaluate note accuracy in a consistent time feel.

Guitar and Piano

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune, perform a chord melody (guitar), “comp” the chord changes, and improvise on the chord changes, preferably from memory. You should perform the tunes with accompaniment tracks or live musicians. The Jazz Studies area does not provide accompaniment tracks or musicians for auditions. As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude accompanied by a recording (provided) to evaluate note accuracy in a consistent time feel. Guitarists will be asked to play the written melody line; Pianists will be asked to play the written melody while comping the chord changes in the left hand.

Bass

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the melody of the tune, provide a bass line (comp), and improvise to the chord changes, preferably from memory. Candidates must audition on acoustic bass,

but may also demonstrate their electric bass skills. The Jazz Studies area does not admit candidates who play electric bass exclusively. You may use a recording or bring live musicians to accompany you. The Jazz Studies area does not provide accompaniment tracks or musicians for auditions. As part of the audition process, you will sightread a jazz etude accompanied by a recording (provided) to evaluate note accuracy in a consistent time feel.

Drums

Prepare two medium-tempo or up-tempo jazz standards/etudes in contrasting styles. Be prepared to perform the tunes with accompaniment tracks or live musicians. The Jazz Studies area does not provide accompaniment tracks or musicians for auditions.

You will be asked to demonstrate proficiency in a variety of styles, plus the ability to play in odd meters. As part of the audition you will be asked to sightread a portion of a big band chart to demonstrate your ability to play set-up figures and “catch” ensemble figures and without disrupting the groove.

Recorded Auditions

The Jazz Studies program does not accept recorded auditions under any circumstances. Please refer to the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music home page for live audition dates. (Home>Jazz>Audition Information).