

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH
BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

**JAZZ VOICE MAJOR
AUDITIONS
Revised Sept. 1, 2003**

GENERAL INFORMATION

An audition is required for admittance to all degree programs in the Department of Music. Auditions take place in February, March, November, and the week before the fall semester. If there are circumstances that prevent your attendance at the department auditions, you may contact the Area Director to schedule an individual appointment.

AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman - Two selections of contrasting style should be prepared. One selection in a foreign language is suggested but not required. Selections should be classical in nature (one piece may come from the American Musical theatre repertoire). An accompanist will be provided.

- Freshmen must be accepted as a Vocal Performance Major, complete two years of core curriculum classes, and reach Junior Proficiency in classical voice. This usually happens at the end of sophomore year.
- Once Junior Proficiency has been reached, you must do a separate audition to enter the Jazz Studies Department and become a Jazz Voice major.
- Once accepted to the Jazz Studies Department, your jazz classes and private jazz lessons will begin. This usually takes place at the start of junior year.

Transfer - You must audition for the voice faculty as well as the jazz faculty.

- For your voice audition, two selections of contrasting style should be prepared. One selection in a foreign language is suggested but not required. Selections should be classical in nature (one piece may come from the American Musical theatre repertoire). An accompanist will be provided.
- For your jazz audition, you should prepare
 1. A swing of your choice in 12-bar blues form (Centerpiece, Billie's Bounce, Straight No Chaser, etc.) with improvisation (scatting) to follow.
 2. A jazz standard of your choice (such as Tenderly, Wave, All The Things You Are, etc.). A different style than your first song is preferred.
 3. You will also be asked to sight read and repeat random pitches played on the piano to test your musicianship and aural skills.
- *Transfer students must be accepted by the classical Voice Department before they may enter the Jazz Studies program.*
- *If you are accepted by the classical Voice Department, but are not at Junior Proficiency level, you must take private classical lessons at the school until Junior Proficiency is reached.*

- Graduate -** A minimum of five selections with styles including ballad, swing, and Latin. At least three of the five pieces must come from standard jazz repertoire (Tenderly, Wave, All the Things You Are, etc.). You must also improvise (scat) on at least two of the five pieces.
- Any jazz etudes or solo transcriptions are acceptable if you want to sing something along those lines. It is not required but could be helpful in establishing your ability to sing jazz style.
 - A pianist will be provided (but not a full rhythm section). You may also use an Aebersold or Band in a Box CD. *Please have your sheet music in the key in which you perform it. Your sheet music must have chord changes (not just the written out piano part).*
 - **NOT ACCEPTABLE:** singing a written part from your high school or college jazz choir repertoire.

IMPORTANT:

ALL undergraduate vocalists who wish to be jazz studies majors MUST be accepted by the classical voice faculty! Students must reach Junior Proficiency in classical voice before they will be admitted to the Jazz Studies Department. Jazz studies classes usually begin junior year.

Students are ALWAYS eligible to take jazz classes and/or sing in one of the vocal jazz ensembles (pending ensemble audition results), regardless of major.

If you have any questions, please contact:

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