Jazz Ensemble Placement Auditions

All students in the CSUF School of Music are required to participate in a major performing ensemble (MPE) every semester during their degree. Jazz students are required to perform an ensemble placement audition for participation in our flagship big band, the Fullerton Jazz Orchestra, our Latin Ensemble, (both winners of the 2018 Reno Jazz Festival), our Jazz Chamber Ensemble (big band II), our Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, our Jazz Small Groups and the Fullerton Jazz Singers.

Who must audition:

Music Majors: All woodwind, brass, piano, bass, guitar, drum-set and mallet percussion music majors, and anyone else wishing to participate in our Jazz Big Bands, Latin Jazz Ensemble, Brazilian Jazz Ensemble, Fullerton Jazz Singers and Jazz Small Groups.

Non-Music Majors: Jazz is a fun and essential part of your education as a music major. Even if you don’t have experience playing jazz in the past, we have a place for you, and we encourage you to participate no matter what your major or emphasis.

Auditions will be held on August 15, 2023, 10AM to 9 PM in room 119 in the Music Building in the Clayes Peforming Arts Center (CPAC).

Audition Materials:

- A transcribed solo or jazz etude (guitarists may play a chord/melody study) of your choice, at least 32 bars. Any tempo is OK, with or without music.
- Play the melody of a bebop head or standard jazz tune, and improvise on the changes, at least two choruses (for a 12 or 16 bar tune, at least 3). In addition, rhythm section players comp for a chorus. Drummers need to prepare the melody on the drum-set, improvise over the form and/or trade 8th’s. Accompanists for all will be provided
- In addition, be prepared to play the melody an improvise on one of the following tunes, depending on your level:
  
  Freshman: Autumn Leaves, In A Mellow Tone, Blue Bossa
  Sophomore: I Hear a Rhapsody, I Love You, Blues for Alice
  Junior: Night and Day, Cherokee, Stella by Starlight
  Senior: Airegin, Moment’s Notice, I’ll Remember April
  Graduate: Giant Steps, Yes Or No, Stablemates

- Sight-reading at the audition.

Placement Results: An email will be sent with audition results as soon as they are available but no later than Friday, August 18th, 2023

Additional questions, please contact:

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