

2018-19 UHS Jazz Band Auditions

Tuesday, May 22, 2018
High School Band Room



Prep Session, Tuesday, May 15, 4-5 pm: This will be an opportunity to meet, go over the audition process, and sign-up for an audition slot. Everyone interested should attend.

****Practice Tracks located in jazz band tab on the Urbandale J-Hawk Bands website****
password: uhsjazz

SAXOPHONE, TRUMPET, AND TROMBONE REQUIREMENTS

1. Perform a scale of your choice to demonstrate your range (low and high)
2. Perform the audition etude
 - a. Minimum requirement: **Beginning to measure 36** with *metronome* at self chosen tempo (whatever speed you need to perform it well)
 - b. Minimum requirement to be eligible for Jazz One: **Entire etude** with accompaniment track
3. **Optional** but encouraged for Jazz One: Improvise a 24 bar blues solo – with Bb Blues practice track

PIANO, GUITAR, AND VIBRAPHONE REQUIREMENTS

1. Perform the audition etude
 - a. Minimum requirement: **Beginning to measure 36** with *metronome* at self chosen tempo (whatever speed you need to perform it well)
 - b. Minimum requirement to be eligible for Jazz One: **Entire etude** with accompaniment track
2. Comp 12 bars of Bb Blues – with Bb Blues practice track
3. **Optional** but encouraged for Jazz One: Improvise a 24 bar Bb Blues solo – with Bb Blues practice track

BASS REQUIREMENTS

1. Perform the audition etude
 - a. Minimum requirement: **Beginning to measure 36** with *metronome* at self chosen tempo (whatever speed you need to perform it well)
 - b. Minimum requirement to be eligible for Jazz One: **Entire etude** with accompaniment track
2. Jazz One Requirement/Jazz Two Recommended:
 - a. Write and perform your own bass line to Bb Blues changes (12 bars) – with Bb Blues practice track
3. **Optional** but encouraged for Jazz One: Improvise a 24 bar Bb Blues solo – with Bb Blues practice track

DRUMSET REQUIREMENTS

1. Perform the audition etude with kicks and fills
 - a. Minimum requirement: **Beginning measure 36** with metronome at self chosen tempo (whatever speed you need to perform it well)
 - b. Minimum requirement to be eligible for Jazz One: **Entire etude** with practice track
2. Perform the first four exercises of "The Eight Standard Drum Set Fills" at quarter note = 108
3. **Optional** but encouraged for Jazz One: Play all 4 (Seniors/Juniors) or at least 2 (Sophomores and younger)
 - a. Bossa - with metronome at quarter note = 108



- b. Samba – with metronome at half note = 100

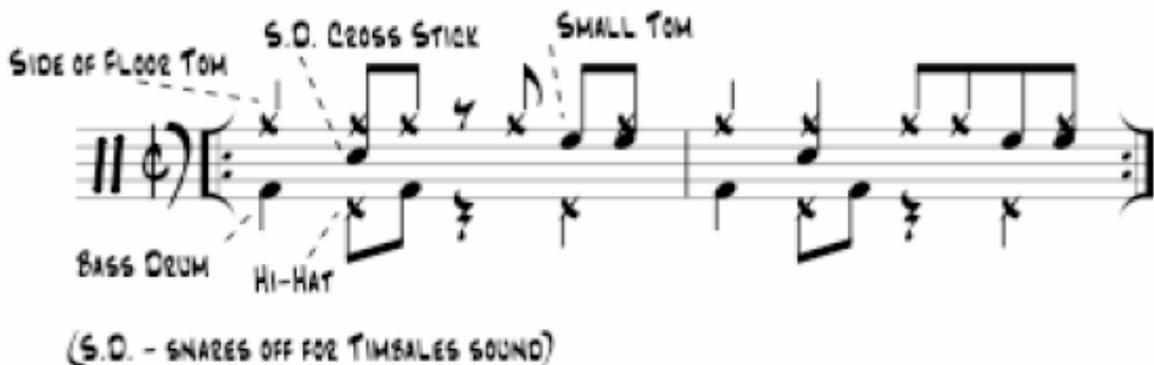


- c. Straight Eighth Contemporary Groove at quarter = 132



- d. Mambo – with metronome at half note = 100

3-2 SON CLAVE "CASCARA" PATTERN



For Experienced Soloists:
How to Improve Your Blues Soloing in One Page:

What to Practice: Scale Use

How to Practice

1. Identify the scale(s) you'll use
2. Memorize the scale(s)
3. Practice going up and down the scale in half notes, quarter notes, and eighth notes, with a metronome or back track.
4. Practice starting and stopping on different notes of the scale other than the first note
5. Practice the scale w/two, three, or four eighth notes per pitch (1111 2222 3333 etc)

******Jazz One Potential Members:** Strive for melodies that involve skips and leaps.

What to Practice: Guide Tones (GT)

How to Practice

1. Identify the guide tone (GT) you'd like to nail (choose one that is not in the scale(s) you use)
2. With a backtrack, practice playing nothing except the guide tone as a long note when it occurs in the form
3. With a backtrack, improvise freely over the whole form *except* the guide tone measure(s); use a long note for these measures.
4. With a backtrack; improvise freely. During the guide tone measures, play only the GT but improvise your own rhythms
5. Same as #4, but "noodle" around the guide tone...but make sure the GT note is the one most often heard.
6. To make the transition to the guide tone smooth, practice using the previous measure's GT as a launch point; play 2nd measure's GT immediately after the 1st measure's GT.

******Jazz One Potential Members:** Strive for GT's in measures 5 and 8

What to Practice: Use of Blues Licks

How to Practice

1. Pick a lick and memorize it
2. Plot out the measure(s) you'd like to use it
3. Improvise freely over the form, but interrupt your train of thought with the lick at the pre-determined time.
4. Learn the lick in a few different keys...so you REALLY know it

******Jazz One Potential Members:** Strive to use 1-2 licks verbatim in your solo

What to Practice: Swing Articulation

How to Practice

1. Preconceive a few ideas before you play.
2. Once you've got them down, think about how you would articulate the same melodies in a full jazz band

******Jazz One Potential Members:** Strive to use offbeat tonguing when appropriate.

What to Practice: Use of Space

How to Practice

1. Predetermine the amount of phrases you plan to play
2. Improvise freely, but don't let yourself play more or less phrases
3. Predetermine how long each phrase will be, and how long each rest will be...stick to it!
4. Remember, phrases are separated by space

Final Thoughts:

1. **Your brain can only handle working on one concept at a time...don't try multiple things and get frustrated that it's not working.**
2. **LISTEN TO GREAT MUSICIANS PLAY! There is no substitute, and no amount of practice that can compensate for listening.**

For Beginner Soloists:

How to Improve Your Blues Soloing in Half-a-Page:

Not much experience with improvising? Here's how to practice:

1. **Scale Choice:**
 - a. Minor Pentatonic Scale:
 - i. For C Pitched instruments: Bb, Db, Eb, F, Ab, Bb
 - ii. For Bb Pitched instruments: C, Eb, F, G, Bb, C
 - iii. For Eb Pitched instruments: G, Bb, C, D, F, G
 - b. Memorize the scale!
2. **Rhythms:**
 - a. Practice playing lots of different rhythms on a SINGLE note of the scale
3. **Articulations:**
 - a. Quarter notes are almost always short and accented
 - i. Practice playing solos of just quarter notes...focus on articulation
 - b. Eighth notes are almost always smooth and connected...except the last eighth in a string is short and accented
 - i. Practice playing solos of just eighth notes...focus on articulation
 - ii. If that's too hard, just choose one or two notes and practice getting your tonguing to match the eighth note speed
4. **Phrasing:**
 - a. Aim for "4-bar phrases" (two bars of playing, two bars of resting). Do this 3 times in your blues solo (for a total of 12 bars).
5. **Licks**
 - a. Learn a lick or two from the "F Blues Guide Tones and Licks" page and use it in your solo
 - b. Change the rhythms or notes slightly to make it your own.

Final Thoughts:

1. **Your brain can only handle working on *one concept at a time*...don't try multiple things and get frustrated that it's not working.**
2. **LISTEN TO GREAT MUSICIANS PLAY! There is no substitute, and no amount of practice that can compensate for listening.**

GOOD LUCK!!!

