

# **Jazz Ensemble Auditions**

**Fall 2009**

Hello all, and welcome to a new year at Illinois State University! All students interested in playing in one of the 3 Jazz Ensembles (big bands) or various jazz combos for the fall of 2009 must audition during the week prior to the first day of classes. Jazz ensembles are open to any ISU student regardless of major. Previous experience with jazz improvisation is **NOT** a requirement for participation. Sign-up sheets for auditions will be posted by Monday, August 11 on the bulletin board outside the audition location (Centennial East Rm 12 in the basement.)

Auditions:

WHEN: Friday, August 14: 9AM-3PM  
Sunday, August 16: 7-10PM  
WHERE: Centennial East rm. 12 (in the basement)  
WHAT: Audition requirements are listed below for each instrument

If you are interested but unable to audition during the allotted times, please contact Dr. Tom Marko at [tjmarko@ilstu.edu](mailto:tjmarko@ilstu.edu) or (309)438-2541 to set up an alternate time as soon as possible.

See below for audition requirements. If you don't improvise yet, or do not have access to any jazz lead sheets but are interested in playing, please audition anyway! Neither of those are requirements for being placed in an ensemble. Please consider the following rehearsal schedule as you plan your classes:

## **ISU Jazz Ensembles Rehearsal Schedule:**

Jazz Ensemble I (top group) meets Tues/Thurs 12-1:50pm

Jazz Ensemble II meets M/W/F 2-2:50pm

Jazz Ensemble III meets M/W/F 1-1:50pm

Combos are scheduled individually according to availability of members

I'm looking forward to another great year!

Tom Marko, Director of Instrumental Jazz Studies

Illinois State University

(309)438-2541

[tjmarko@ilstu.edu](mailto:tjmarko@ilstu.edu)

### **Jazz Audition Requirements:**

(If you don't improvise yet, or do not have access to any jazz lead sheets but are interested in playing, please audition anyway! Neither of those are requirements for being placed in an ensemble.)

#### Horn players (Saxophone, Trumpet, Trombone):

- 1) Required: Short sight reading example.
- 2) Optional: Improvisation over a blues in Concert F or Bb (student's choice)
- 3) Optional: If you wish to perform a prepared piece, a bebop head (melody) such as "Au Privave" or "Anthropology" is appropriate.

#### Piano/guitar:

- 1) Required: One or two short sight reading examples.
- 2) Required: Comp 2 choruses and play improvised solo for two choruses over blues in F or Bb (student may choose key)- lead sheet provided.
- 3) Optional prepared piece: most any jazz standard would be fine. ex. Autumn Leaves, My Romance, Blue Bossa, Body and Soul, etc.

#### Bass:

- 1) Required: One or two short sight reading examples.
- 2) Required: Walk 2 choruses and solo two choruses over a blues in F or Bb (student may choose key)- lead sheet provided.
- 3) Optional prepared piece: most any jazz standard would be fine. ex. Autumn Leaves, My Romance, Blue Bossa, Body and Soul, etc.

#### Drums:

- 1) Required: Demonstrate the following styles: Medium Swing, Up-tempo Swing, Jazz Waltz, Bossa Nova, Samba, Mambo, funk/rock.
- 2) Required: Trade "Fours" in a medium and up-tempo swing style.
- 3) Required: Short sight-reading example of a big band composition.

In all auditions I am looking for:

- 1) Pitch
- 2) Jazz style (articulation, time feel, etc.)
- 3) Tone quality
- 4) Accurate rhythms

For more information contact Dr. Tom Marko (309)438-2541 or [tjmarko@ilstu.edu](mailto:tjmarko@ilstu.edu)