

# Fall 2026 PSU Jazz Placement Auditions

Scroll below to your instrument group to find details for your jazz placement audition.

**Additional audition materials are coming soon** and will be found on the PSU Music Department website under *Audition Requirements*. Auditions take place in the Fall semester only. Everyone is encouraged to audition regardless of their major but prior jazz experience is mandatory. No one is guaranteed a chair in the ensemble, as all positions are open to the best player. Make sure you prepare well for your audition. All auditions will take place in the Bicknell Rehearsal Room.

Please avoid conflicts with the audition times. If you have an unavoidable conflict, we may be able to schedule an optional audition time for Wednesday at 1:00 or Thursday at 2:00. Please stop by my office on the second floor of McCray Hall if you have a conflict or send me an email at: [thastings@pittstate.edu](mailto:thastings@pittstate.edu).

**IMPORTANT:** *Auditioning for the PSU Jazz Ensemble is a serious commitment. If chosen to be a member of the ensemble, a professional attitude and work ethic (including attendance) is expected.* Lack of professional attitude/behavior will result in the student being dropped from the ensemble. Results will be posted in the lobby the day after auditions. Rehearsals begin the second week of classes.

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## Rhythm Section Auditions

(guitar, piano, bass, and drums)

Jazz rhythm section auditions will take place on **Tuesday, August 18 at 6 pm in the Bicknell Rehearsal Room**. If you want to play in big band, you must attend this audition. For this audition, each person will play individually. There is no signup sheet for the rhythm section auditions. Everyone please arrive promptly at 6 pm.

**Drummers:** Drums and cymbals will be set up for you so that all you have to do is show up. We will also take care of teardown. You'll just need to bring your sticks and brushes (if you also have brushes). Drummers will be asked to play different grooves to show their range of styles (medium swing, fast swing, bossa nova, swing waltz, Afro Cuban, Funk, swing with brushes).

**Bassists:** A bass amp will be set up for you. You will need to bring your bass and instrument cable.

**Guitarists:** A guitar amp will be set up for you. You will need to bring your guitar and instrument cable

**Pianists:** A piano will be set up for you

**In addition to your prepared materials, you will be given a short section of a big band chart to sight read**

### **Bass Audition:**

1. Perform a 12- bar blues (any key), or any jazz standard which illustrates your walking bass style. Medium tempo swing.
2. Demonstrate a two-beat Latin style for at least 12 measures.
3. Demonstrate a funk/rock/ hip-hop pattern
4. Required prepared piece on website, play melody
5. Sight reading
6. Optional improvised solo either unaccompanied or over an F blues.

### **Guitar/Piano Audition:**

*I'm looking for guitarist(s) and pianist(s) who can preferably feel comfortable reading chord symbols, as well as written music.*

1. Prepare a jazz standard and interpret the melody while comping. If you are unable to comp while you are playing the melody, please play the tune a second time with changes only.
2. Comp through the chord changes of an F or Bb blues (your choice) at a medium swing tempo.
3. Prepared piece on website, melody only.
4. Sight reading
5. Optional improvised solo over an F blues.

### **Drums:**

*Please play like you are in a big band situation. Time and great feel are better than blinding technique. 😊*

1. Keeping time as marked below:
  - A. Medium tempo 4/4 swing feel for 12 bars
  - B. Double time 4/4 swing feel for 12 bars

- C. Funk/rock feel for 8 bars
  - D. Jazz waltz feel for 8 bars
  - E. 4/4 Latin feel for 12 bars
  - F. Quarter = 60, 4/4 swing ballad (brushes) feel for 12 bars
2. A 15-second swing improvised solo.

## Jazz Trombone Auditions

Jazz trombone auditions will occur on Tuesday, August 18 starting at 7:00pm, If you want to play in a big band or combo, you must attend this audition. I will hear you individually for approximately five minutes. Please prepare the tenor trombone excerpt or bass trombone excerpt for your audition (coming soon).

1. Concert Bb blues scale, in eighth notes, (two octaves, if possible, swung. Quarter note=120-144
2. Concert G major scale, in eighth notes, 2 octaves, swung. Quarter note=120-144
3. Full range chromatic scale, ascending, as high as your ability can go 😊
4. Required prepared jazz piece(s), available on the PSU website under *Audition Requirements*. Dr. Hastings can print hard copies by request if needed.
5. Sight-reading
6. Optional improvisation on an F blues.

## Jazz Saxophone Auditions

Jazz saxophone auditions will be held on Wednesday, August 19, at 6:00pm. If you want to play in big band, you must attend this audition. I will hear you individually on your main saxophone. Doubling on flute and/or clarinet is encouraged though not required. Improvising is also encouraged though not required. There is no signup sheet for the sax section auditions. Everyone please arrive promptly at 6pm.

1. Concert Bb blues scale, in eighth notes, (two octaves, if possible, swung. Quarter note= 120-144
2. Concert G major scale, in eighth notes, 2 octaves, swung. Quarter note=120-144
3. Full range chromatic scale, ascending, as high as your ability can go 😊
4. Required prepared jazz piece(s), available on the PSU website under *Audition Requirements*. Dr. Hastings can print hard copies by request if needed.
5. Sight-reading
6. Optional improvisation on an F blues.

## Jazz Trumpet Auditions

Jazz trumpet auditions will be on Wednesday, August 19, at 7:15pm. If you want to play in big band, you must attend this audition. I will hear you individually for approximately five- seven minutes. Please prepare the required trumpet excerpt for your audition. You will also be given a short piece to sight read. Improvising is also encouraged though not required. There is no signup sheet for the trumpet section auditions. Everyone please arrive promptly at 7:15pm.

1. Concert Bb blues scale, in eighth notes, (two octaves, if possible, swung. Quarter note=120-144
2. Concert G major scale, in eighth notes, 2 octaves, swung. Quarter note=120-144
3. Full range chromatic scale, ascending, as high as your ability can go 😊
4. Required prepared jazz piece(s), available on the PSU website under *Audition Requirements*. Dr. Hastings can print hard copies by request if needed.
5. Sight-reading
6. Optional improvisation on an F blues.

*Good luck and I look forward to hearing your great playing at auditions!*

*Dr. Todd J. Hastings*

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