

## FALL 2023 JAZZ ENSEMBLE AUDITION INFORMATION

\*All students (regardless of jazz background) are encouraged to audition for one of our two jazz ensembles which will meet on the following schedule in the Fall semester:

<b>Jazz Ensemble I</b>	MUS 300-002	M-W-F	11:00 – 11:50 AM
<b>Jazz Ensemble II</b>	MUS 100J-003	M-W	5:00 – 5:50 PM

**Auditions will be held on Sunday, August 27<sup>th</sup>.** Specific times will be available closer to the audition date. You will receive an email in early August with a link to sign up for a specific audition time. Please contact the band office at [tamucbands@tamuc.edu](mailto:tamucbands@tamuc.edu) with any additional questions regarding jazz auditions.

### **Welcome to the Fall 2023 Jazz Ensemble Auditions at Texas A&M Commerce!**

We're excited to hear of your interest in the Jazz Program here at TAMUC and we hope you have a great experience. Downloadable files containing two musical examples for each instrument contain the only materials you'll need to prepare ahead of time. Simply download the material for your desired instrument.

**Prepared Excerpts:** Carefully prepare while noting the style and tempo of each excerpt, and attempt to play musically with as much attention to detail as possible (dynamics, phrasing, articulation, etc.).

**Sightreading:** You will also be asked to sight-read one audition selection. The best way to prepare yourself for this will be to read through a lot of material over the summer! A large amount of sight-reading is required in the Jazz Ensemble curriculum throughout the year.

**Improvisation (Optional):** All auditioning students are highly encouraged, though not required, to improvise as part of their audition. **Improvising cannot negatively impact your audition score**, only help it. Students may play 1-3 choruses of a blues in concert F or Bb. Students with more improvisation experience may also choose to play the melody and one chorus of improvisation on a jazz standard. Lead sheets and backing tracks for suggested tunes are provided in the Improvisation Materials folder, though the student may choose another tune if desired, as long as a backing track is available on YouTube so we can hear you with accompaniment.

All musicians should be ready to audition slightly ahead of the individual audition time. Punctuality and preparedness play a part in the audition process as well!

### **Instrument-Specific Information**

**Alto Tenor and Baritone Saxophone** music is contained in one downloadable file. You may wish to audition on more than one saxophone; please sign up for an additional time slot to accommodate additional auditions.

**Trumpet** music for Lead (higher parts) and Section (lower parts) are in one file. Feel free to choose whichever material you feel best shows your command of the instrument and the music.

**Tenor and Bass Trombone** music is in one file; please select one, and if you wish to audition on more than one instrument, sign up for an additional time.

**Rhythm section** (Guitar, Piano, Bass, Drums) should select the appropriate file for your instrument. Be ready to play the music with a good interpretation of the groove and feel. The guitar and piano auditions involve written voicings as well as rhythmic notation and slash notation. In these sections, please voice chords according to your current knowledge of jazz harmony. In addition to their drum set duties, drummers placed in a jazz ensemble may have the opportunity to play auxiliary percussion appropriate to their experience.

Prepare well, and we look forward to seeing and hearing you on August 27th. Please watch for additional emails regarding sign-ups for times.