

2013-2014 Jazz Ensemble Auditions

Thank you for auditioning for the 2013-2014 Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School Jazz Ensemble. Below is listed what students need to prepare for the audition and what to expect. Please study this information so that you are as prepared as possible. Also be aware that as you prepare your audition material, you may find it challenging and difficult. Please do not let this discourage you. Obviously, if you can play everything, you will have a better chance, but it is always possible that everyone will have a hard time with certain aspects of the audition. Prepare the selections to the best of your ability.

Trumpet and trombone range is important for jazz band, but it is not everything. If you are not capable of playing the highest written notes on the prepared music, you may choose to play them down an octave if necessary.

Requirements for the Audition:

1. Prepared piece 1: "Amen" in swing style by Jim Snidero. Prepare the entire piece. At the audition, an excerpt of the selection will be heard. Be conscious of rhythms, articulations, tempo, dynamics and style.
2. Prepared piece 2: "Showtime" in a swing shuffle style by Eric Richards. Prepare the entire piece. At the audition, an excerpt of the selection will be heard. Be conscious of rhythms, articulations, tempo, dynamics and style.
3. Play the song – "Slow Blues in G" from Volume 2, Nothing But Blues by Jamey Aebersold. All instrumental parts except drums should prepare the melody. **Improvisation is optional.** If you're uncomfortable with improvising, no penalty will be assessed.
4. All players, except drums, will be asked to perform a major scale containing of at least two sharps or two flats or up to four sharps or four flats, and a chromatic scale to demonstrate range and tone quality.
5. A short sight reading excerpt will be required of all students auditioning.
6. Percussionists will be asked to demonstrate various styles of drum set playing such as swing, shuffle, funk, bossa nova, and other Latin rhythms. The performer will be asked to play four measures of regular time keeping, followed by a two to four measure break of a drum fill (solo), and then followed by time keeping. In addition, please bring brushes to demonstrate this technique. For "Amen", percussionists will be asked to play along with the recording in the background.

Enclosed in this packet are the prepared selections and the music needed for improvisation. **Recorded samples of the prepared pieces are available by going to the BCC website on the music webpage, or by searching the piece on youtube.** The audition piece, "Showtime" may be heard at www.barnhouse.com. Posted on the Band Room door will be a date and time for students to sign up for the audition. **Auditions will take place on Wed., Jan. 31st, starting at 2:30p.m.** Auditions will be approximately ten minutes each. If other times are needed, please contact me to schedule individual times. Again, thank you for your interest in the jazz band and Good Luck!

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