

Jazz Ensemble Auditions

Fall 2019

Hello all, and welcome to a new year at Illinois State University! All students interested in playing in one of the 2 Jazz Ensembles (big bands) or various jazz combos this Fall must audition during the week prior to the first day of classes. All ISU students regardless of major are eligible to audition. Previous experience with improvisation is **NOT** a requirement for participation. Sign-up sheets for auditions will be posted by Monday, August 12 on the bulletin board outside the audition location (Dr. Marko's office: Centennial East Rm 12 in the basement.)

Auditions:

WHEN: Friday, August 16: 10AM-3PM
Sunday, August 18: 6PM-11PM
WHERE: Centennial East rm. 12 (Dr. Marko's office 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. Marko at 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 (MUS 139A70 section 1)

Jazz Ensemble II meets M/W/F 2-2:50pm (MUS 139A70 section 2)

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

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) Required: prepared excerpt: <https://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/music/audition/>
- 3) Optional: Improvisation over a blues in Concert F or Bb (student's choice)
- 4) Optional: If you wish to perform a prepared piece, a bebop head (melody) such as "Au Privave", "Billie's Bounce", "Anthropology" is appropriate.

Piano/guitar:

- 1) Required: One or two short sight reading examples.
- 2) Required: prepared excerpt: <https://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/music/audition/>
- 3) Required: Comp 2 choruses and play improvised solo for two choruses over blues in F or Bb (student may choose key)- lead sheet provided.
- 4) Optional prepared piece: most any jazz standard would be fine. eg. 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 over a blues in F or Bb (student may choose key)- lead sheet provided.
- 3) Required: prepared excerpt: <https://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/music/audition/>
- 4) Optional: Improvisation over a blues in F or Bb
- 5) 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.
- 4) Required: prepared excerpt: <https://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/music/audition/>

In all auditions I am looking for:

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

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