

August 21, 2017

Hello Delbarton Jazz Band students and parents,

As hopefully all of you are now aware, I will be taking over the Jazz Band for this coming 2017-18 school year. I am really looking forward to having the opportunity to get to know all of you as we work to make some great music! As with all of the arts, playing jazz helps us develop many important life skills, including the opportunity to improve our creative thinking, hone our attention to detail, develop skills for working with others as leaders and teammates, and build confidence in creating our own unique voice inside this world. My goal is to help you all start or continue this path over the course of the next year.

Our regular rehearsal time this year will be on Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm. For those who are interested and available, we will also have a 30 minute improvisation class immediately following our rehearsal from 7:00-7:30pm. While our Jazz Band will be seated through the audition process, all interested students at Delbarton will be welcome to join us for our improvisation class every week.

I am planning to hold a brief, 15 minute meeting at 6:30pm just after the Music Picnic on Wednesday, September 6. At this meeting, I can answer any questions any of you may have about the year ahead or the audition process. **Jazz Band Auditions will be held on Wednesday & Friday, September 13 & 15.**

I am really looking forward to the opportunity to work with all of you this coming year!!

Best wishes,

Nathan Eklund  
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# Detailed Audition Submission Information

**\*\*Drummers: please see the following page for audition details**

Please prepare your audition using the audition packet specified for your instrument specifically. Also note below any specifications for your specific instrument.

## **Scales & Arpeggios**

1. Only perform the scales or arpeggios that you are comfortable playing
2. ACCURACY is the primary element for judging scales; speed/technique will be taken into consideration, but only if the scale/arpeggio is played correctly
3. Play multiple octaves, when applicable

## **Blues & Improvisation**

1. Play the melody to *Bag's Groove* one time in the range most comfortable for you on your instrument (make sure you select the music in the correct key for your instrument)
2. Improvise for two choruses of the form  
**Piano and Guitar** – Please be prepared to play the chords (comp) through blues for 2 choruses after the melody and before taking your improvised solo  
**Bass** – Please be prepared to walk a bass-line through the blues for 2 choruses after the melody and before taking your improvised solo

## **Big Band Excerpts**

1. If possible, all students should prepare at least *Big Band excerpt #1* for their audition, and both *Big Band excerpts* are preferred
2. Please pay close attention to notated tempo and style for each piece

## **Drummers:**

**In place of the Scales & Arpeggios and Blues & Improvisation, please be prepared to play the following:**

- Play 16 measure of a rock beat (approx. ♩ = **110**); play fills into the 9th and 17th measures
- Play 16 measures of a bossa nova (approx. ♩ = **120**); play fills into the 9th and 17th measures
- Play 16 measures of a mambo (approx. ♩ = **100**); play fills into the 9th and 17th measures
- Trade fours by yourself 4 times-play four bars of time followed by a four bar solo, repeat three additional times, 32 measures total (**swing ♩ = 140**)
- Play 32 measures of uptempo swing, marking the beginning of every eight measures (**swing ♩ = 220**)

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2. Please pay close attention to notated tempo and style for each piece