

# Audition Recording Info

Some applicants for the Stanford Jazz Workshop summer programs are required to submit **audition recordings** for admission to **Jazz Institute** or the **Advanced Package**. This document will help you determine whether you need to submit an Audition Recording and guide you through the process of creating and submitting your recording.

Please note that even if you are not required to submit an audition recording, you are still required to submit a **placement** recording. **Audition** recordings are used to determine acceptance into the program. **Placement** recordings are used to place students in the correct level of classes and ensembles.

*If you submit an Audition recording for acceptance to the Jazz Institute or Advanced Package program, the same recordings can be used for your Placement recording. This is most convenient if you're applying for Jazz Institute in the spring or close to the start of the program. If you auditioned for Jazz Institute in the fall or winter, it's best to submit new Placement recordings in the spring, as that'll give us a better idea of your musicianship for the best placement into classes and ensembles.*

For more information about **Placement** evaluation recordings, please see the Placement Evaluation Instructions document. [You can download it by clicking here.](#)

## Who needs to send in an audition recording?

1. Audition recordings are required for participants in the **Advanced Package** and **Jazz Institute** programs.
  - a. Advanced Package:
    - i. Instrumentalists who have not previously attended Jazz Institute
    - ii. Vocalists who have not previously attended Jazz Institute
  - b. Jazz Institute:
    - i. Instrumentalists under 18 years of age who have not previously attended Jazz Institute
    - ii. Vocalists of any age who have not previously attended Jazz Institute

## Audition guidelines for instrumentalists

**Please submit two (2) recordings for evaluation.**

1. All students auditioning for the Advanced Package or Jazz Institute are required to submit a recording of **"Au Privave" by Charlie Parker**. Play-along recordings and chord changes are provided at the web address below.

2. For the second recording, you have your choice of several tunes: **"Blue Bossa," "Take the A Train," "On Green Dolphin Street", "All the Things You Are", "Moment's Notice", or "Con Alma"**. Play-along recordings and chord changes for all these selections are available at the web address below.

**\*\*\* Please note: All drummers** auditioning for the Advanced Package or Jazz Institute are required to submit a recording of "On Green Dolphin Street." SJW will accept an optional third recording from drummers if they'd like to submit an additional recording of another selection.

Play-along recordings and chord charts for each of these required selections are provided online at [https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ks3l1u02jixe50v/AAClmmaifcC6iT6A3B\\_nzmia?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ks3l1u02jixe50v/AAClmmaifcC6iT6A3B_nzmia?dl=0)

The songs for the Jazz Institute or Advanced Package auditions are in the folders labeled "Blues," "Set 3," "Set 4", and "Set 5". Sets 1 through 2 contain less advanced songs that are acceptable for Placement Evaluation Recordings, but not for Auditions.

Versions of the play-alongs are available for rhythm section instruments as well as horns and strings. Be sure to download the appropriate version - the versions labeled "for horns" have the full rhythm section, while the versions labeled "for drums", "for bass", and "for piano and guitar" don't include the full rhythm section. String players (violin, viola, and cello) should use the "for horns" versions.

Due to copyright restrictions we can't distribute sheet music for these selections, but charts with the chord changes are provided. If you're not already familiar with the melody of the tune you want to use for your audition, you can learn it by ear from a recording or find published sheet music. The website JazzStandards.com is a good resource for finding recordings and sheet music for your selection. Just follow this link: <http://www.jazzstandards.com/search.htm> and type in the name of the tune you want.

On your audition, you should aim to **demonstrate a strong grasp of jazz fundamentals rather than focusing on creative risk-taking, or flashy, virtuosic playing**. Use these tunes to demonstrate fundamentals such as your harmonic vocabulary, rhythmic concept, phrasing, and ability to maintain the song form.

## Additional guidelines for drums

1. Blues: play "time" for two choruses on "Au Privave," take a two-chorus solo. A "chorus" equals one time through the "form."
2. All drummers auditioning for the Advanced Package or Jazz Institute are required to submit a recording of "On Green Dolphin Street." SJW will accept an optional third recording from drummers if they'd like to submit an additional recording of another selection. For your recording of "On Green Dolphin Street" and other (optional) audition piece, play "time" for two choruses, then take a two chorus solo. On your last chorus, play as if you were "trading" with other musicians – i.e., alternate between improvising and playing the groove in four-bar phrases (or whatever division works with the song you choose).

## Additional guidelines for brass, woodwinds, and strings

1. Blues: play the melody of "Au Privave," improvise a two chorus solo, then play the melody again to finish. A "chorus" equals one time through the "form."
2. For your other audition piece, play the melody and then improvise a two-chorus solo, and then play the melody one last time w/ embellishment. The play-along recordings provide four choruses of accompaniment.

## Additional guidelines for piano and guitar

For both selections play the melody once, improvise a two-chorus solo, and then "comp" the harmony for one chorus as if you were accompanying a soloist. A "chorus" equals one time through the "form."

## Additional guidelines for bass

For both selections walk a bass line (or play a stylistically appropriate bass line if the tune doesn't have a swing feel) for three choruses and then improvise a one-chorus solo. A "chorus" equals one time through the "form."

## Audition guidelines for vocalists

Submit two songs of your choice in contrasting styles and tempos (e.g., Latin, swing, ballad, etc.). The songs should be from the jazz repertoire rather than pop, rock, or other genres. Applicants should use this opportunity to demonstrate their tone, time-feel, phrasing, creativity and ability to maintain the song form. All musical backgrounds are acceptable: piano, rhythm section, "play-along" recording, etc. The quality of the accompaniment will not affect the applicant's evaluation. Note: a cappella auditions are not accepted.

## How to prepare your audition recordings

Recordings must clearly feature the playing or singing of the applicant. While recordings must be audible, the overall recording quality does not affect an applicant's audition. Applicants are encouraged to use the play-along materials provided, although they can use other accompaniment if desired. **Please use the provided play-along tracks or record with a live band, and make sure that both the accompaniment and your instrument or voice can be heard in the recording.**

You can make your recording using a computer, smartphone, digital recorder, or any other type of recording device. There are many apps and programs that can make audio recordings, so you are welcome to use whatever software you're familiar with. If you are looking for free software to make these recordings, we suggest the "Voice Memos" app, which is available for iOS and Android devices, or the audio recording and editing program Audacity, which is available for Windows, Mac, and Linux computers at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>.

SJW can accept audio and video files directly from smartphones. If you're using another device, please make sure your recordings are one of the following file types: MP3, MPEG, MPEG-4, AAC or WAV format before submitting them. **SJW cannot accept other file types.**

## What's the deadline for audition recordings?

Deadlines to submit your Audition recording will be determined individually. For best results, plan on submitting your audition within two weeks of registering for Jazz Institute or the Advanced Package.

If you are a Jazz Institute or Advanced Package applicant under 18 years of age and are not admitted to your program of choice, we will offer placement in Jazz Camp or the Jazz Camp Package if space is available, or we will refund your deposit. If your questions aren't answered here, please don't hesitate to contact our Manager of Education Programs Steven Lugerner at 650-736-0324 x309 or by e-mail at [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org).

## How to submit your audition recordings

To submit your Audition Recordings you will need to create an account at [www.stanfordjazz.org](http://www.stanfordjazz.org) and register for your chosen program. You will then receive an email with instructions on how to upload your recordings to your account. You will receive this email within two business days, after your registration has been processed.

## Music theory evaluation

All students registered for the Advanced Package are required to submit a music theory evaluation for proper placement in theory classes during Jazz Camp. This evaluation can be taken and submitted online at this link <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RJNDDPW> Participants in the Jazz Institute **DO NOT** have to submit this evaluation.