



## **Giant Steps Big Band Audition materials for fall 2021**

Welcome! We're very happy you're interested in auditioning for the Giant Steps Big Bands! You'll learn tons and you'll improve more than you every thought possible. We're all excited to be able to get back to playing in big bands — in person! Please read these instructions carefully, and you'll be well-prepared for your audition.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Steven Lugerner at [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org).

### **1. Schedule your audition time**

We're holding auditions live on Zoom. Your audition will last approximately 15 minutes. You can choose your audition date and time by clicking on the link that corresponds with the band you're interested in:

**Giant Steps Big Band North — Wed. evenings at Mills High School, Millbrae**

**<https://go.oncehub.com/GiantStepsBigBandNorthAuditions>**

**Giant Steps Big Band Mid-Peninsula — Tuesday evenings in Menlo Park/Palo Alto area**

**<https://go.oncehub.com/GiantStepsBigBandMidPeninsulaAuditions>**

**Giant Steps Big Band South — Monday evenings at The Harker School Upper Campus, San Jose**

**<https://go.oncehub.com/GiantStepsBigBandSouthAuditions>**

If you can't make the time for your particular instrument, please contact Steven Lugerner ([slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org)) right away, and we'll do our best to schedule a different time for you.

## 2. Download your audition materials

Music and play-along recordings are available online at this link:

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xkht2y9kedvynkn/AADeSbGFobBvMRaZFNyc7j\\_8a?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xkht2y9kedvynkn/AADeSbGFobBvMRaZFNyc7j_8a?dl=0)

Once you visit the Dropbox link, click on the folder corresponding to your instrument. You'll see sheet music for two songs, and two corresponding play-along tracks.

Download all four files, and play through the two songs. You may choose which song you'd like to play for your audition. Only one song is required for your audition. Choose whichever piece showcases your ability the best.

If you've never improvised before, don't worry! We'll teach you how. Just play the the melodies as best you can.

If you're a wind instrument player, we'll ask you to play the written excerpt, and then improvise for two choruses (2x through the song form).

Bass players, we'll ask you to play the written excerpt, then walk for a chorus, then improvise for two choruses (2x through the songform).

Guitarists and pianists, we'll ask you to play the written excerpt, then comp for a chorus, then improvise for two choruses (2x through the songform).

You may practice these songs as much as you like and work on them with your private teacher. Your auditioner is going to listen for good jazz phrasing, precise rhythms and articulations, swing feel, and good tone.

When you play for your audition, please have the backing track play via a Bluetooth speaker in your room, and play along with that, so the director can hear the sound of your instrument and the sound of the backing track. Please have your instrument out and be ready to play at the very start of your audition. Please pair your Bluetooth speaker before the start of the audition, or be ready to play with whatever play along setup you have at home.

### First time using Zoom to play music?

Follow our easy guide to setting up Zoom for music starting on page 4.

## Scales

In addition to these prepared pieces, your auditioner will ask you to scales that you already know, such as the concert Bb major scale, in one, two, or three octaves, depending on what you can do.

## Drums

Be prepared to play your choice of one of the two pieces in your Dropbox folder. Learn the melody, and play a drum part that you think complements the melody. Be prepared to take direction from the auditioner.

In addition, be prepared to play at least 16 bars of each of the following grooves.

Up-tempo swing

Swing with brushes

Funk

Rock ballad

Medium swing

Medium shuffle

## 3. Sight reading

Your auditioner will show you a short musical excerpt, and will ask you to sight-read it. The piece will be displayed in the Zoom window. Please be prepared to do your audition using a device with a screen large enough and in a position convenient enough for you to be able to read music on the screen. Use a desktop computer, a laptop, or a large tablet. We do not recommend using a cell phone.

Your auditioner may ask you to read the piece at a variety of tempos, and in a variety of styles. Be prepared to follow directions.

If you do not have a device with a screen large enough to allow you to read music, please let us know in advance by contacting Steven Lugerner at [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org).

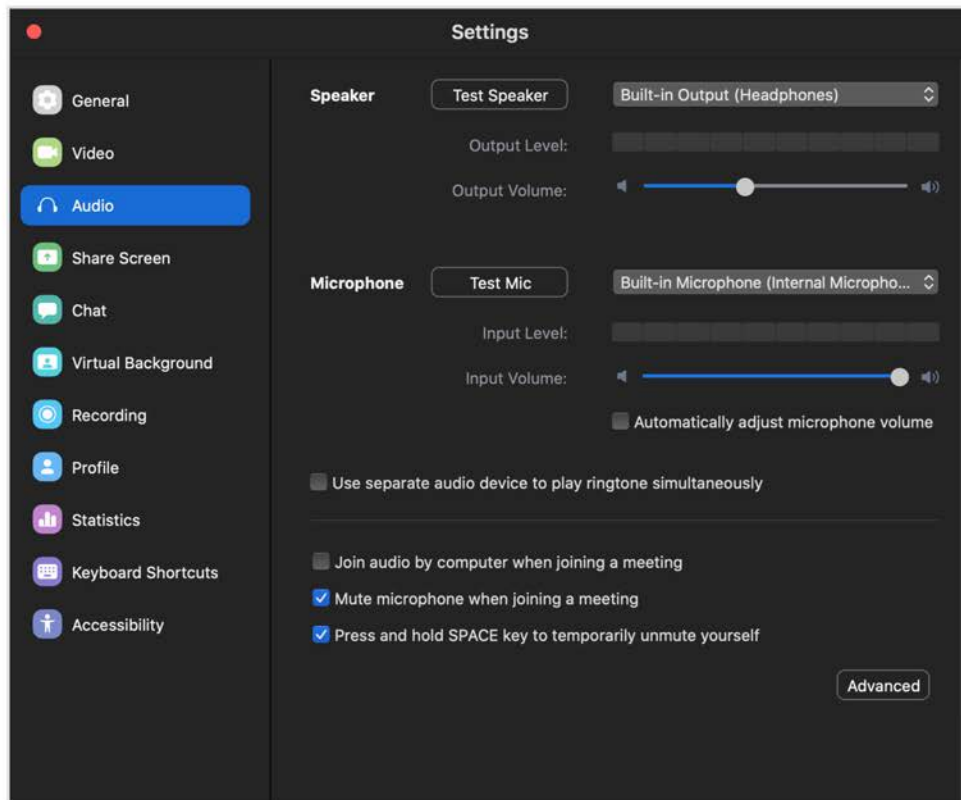
## How to set up your computer for your Zoom audition

### Minimum technical requirements for your Zoom audition

- You should use a **laptop or desktop computer** for your audition, so you can see the sightreading music clearly. Tablets should only be used if you don't have access to a computer. If you don't have any of these, please contact us.
- **System requirements on computer:**
  - Mac: macOS X with macOS 10.7 or later
  - PC: Windows 7 or later
- **Minimum Internet Speed:** 50 Mbps (down) / 3 Mbps (up). [Test your speed here.](#)
- **Zoom software-** details on the next page.
- A **printer** to print sheet music, in case you can't see the sight-reading music on your screen.

### Setting Up Zoom

1. [Download Zoom Desktop app.](#)
2. Open the Zoom desktop app and log in. If it's your first time using it, sign up first - it's free.
3. Upon your first sign in, click on your profile photo then select **Check for Updates** to see if there are any software updates available and install them.
4. After the update, or if there isn't an update available, **click on your profile photo** in the upper right corner, then select **Settings**.
5. Select **Audio** in the settings menu on the left.



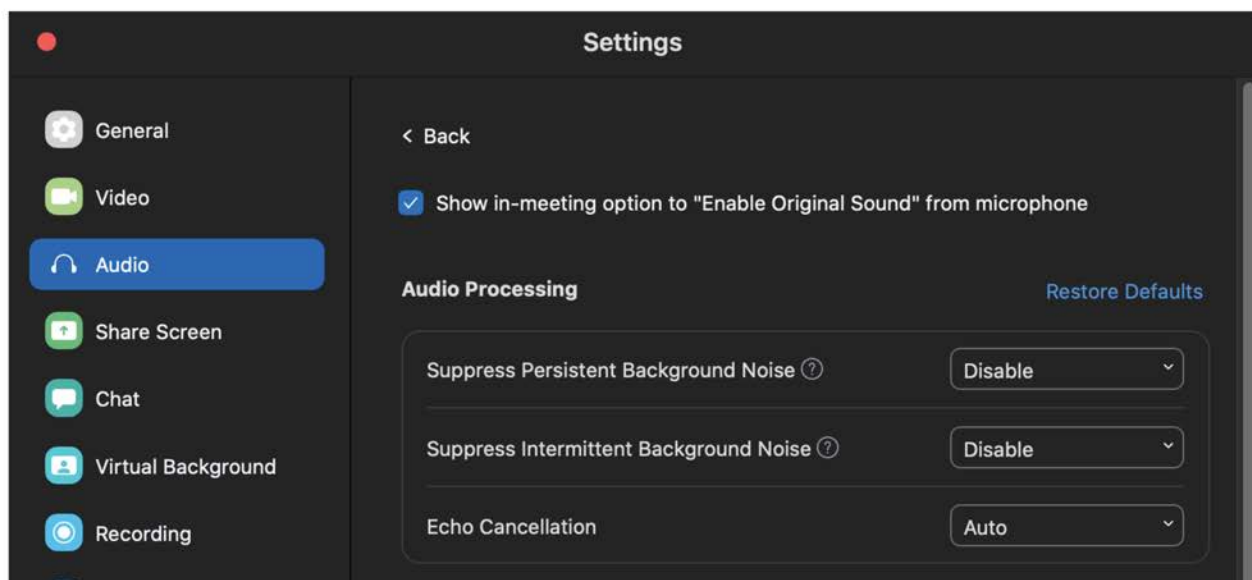
6. On **Microphone** setting, **uncheck** the box next to **Automatically adjust microphone volume**. The box is checked by default to optimize meetings that consist of mostly speech but is not ideal for music lessons or auditions.
7. Then click on the **Advanced** button in the bottom right corner.

8. Check the box for **Show in-meeting option to "Enable Original Sound" from microphone**. This setting allows you to turn on/off the original sound during meetings. This is to optimize your audio for instrument sounds instead of speech. Note that you must turn it on manually during your audition: you'll see a button in the top left corner that says **Turn on**



**Original Sound**. Click it (turn on) at the beginning of a class meeting.

9. Set **Suppress Persistent Background Noise** to **Disable**.  
 10. Set **Suppress Intermittent Background Noise** to **Disable**.  
 11. Set **Echo Cancellation** to **Auto**.



### Before and During your audition

- Be sure to test video/audio **10 minutes prior to the start time**, you should **test your microphone level while playing or singing**. You can do so by going to **Settings**—> **Audio** —> **Test Mic**.
- Close other unrelated programs on your computer, turn off notifications, and other distractions.
- If you use Windows, turn on [Focus Assist mode](#).
- If you use Mac, turn on [Do Not Disturb mode](#).

**For tech support or questions, email**  
[slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org)