



Giant Steps Big Band 2022-2023 Auditions

Welcome! We're very happy you're interested in auditioning for the Giant Steps Big Band program! You'll learn tons and you'll improve more than you ever thought possible. We're all excited to be able to get back to playing in big bands!

Auditions will be held at Stanford University the evenings of August 25 and 26, and during the day on August 27 and 28. If you can't make those dates, you can audition online, but we strongly recommend auditioning in person.

This document tells you how to access to the materials you need to prepare for your audition. The audition materials are easy and fun, and they give our faculty a chance to get to know you and your level of musical experience.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us:

For registration and scheduling questions:
Steven Lugerner, slugerner@stanfordjazz.org

For questions about the band experience:
Dave Gregoric, dgregoric@smuhdsd.org

1. Schedule your audition

To schedule your audition, just click on the link below, and indicate your first choice date and time, and your second choice date and time:

<https://forms.gle/Nj9jMfxPsgFe3LAF9>

We'll confirm your audition time via email once you've submitted your choices.

See the next page for more about how to prepare for your audition.

2. Download your audition materials

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

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/d3uyzwpplhzi7kp/AAB5sAgab3veQQ_mzHqwb6Gla?dl=0

In the Dropbox folder, you'll find two folders – one folder contains an excerpt, just the melody of "Lady Bird", which we'd like you to prepare. The other contains materials for the improvisation portion of your audition. Please download materials from each folder for your specific instrument or transposition.

Excerpt for "Lady Bird"

Download and practice the excerpt corresponding to your instrument's transposition. Practice at a slow tempo until you feel confident, with a metronome. See if you can get the metronome up to 120 BPM (Beats Per Minute). You don't have to play it that fast, but see if you can!

In addition to the excerpt, be prepared to play the following scales:

- concert C major scale — one octave, two if you can do it
- concert Eb major scale — one octave, two if you can do it
- chromatic scale, ascending and descending at quarter-note=120, starting from the lowest to the highest note you can play on your instrument
- Bb blues scale

- Drums: be prepared to play at least 16 bars of each of the following grooves.

Up-tempo swing

Funk

Medium swing

Samba

Medium shuffle

New Orleans street beat, second-line drumming

12/8 slow swing

Rock

Ballad with brushes

Swing with brushes

Rock ballad

Improvisation

We've got a really fun song for you to play for the improvisation portion of your audition. It's called "Listen Here". We've provided play-along tracks for you to practice with in three tempos: 90 BPM (slow) 100 BPM (medium) and 110 BPM (fast) — choose the tempo that you're comfortable with!

If you're a wind instrument player, we'll ask you to play the written part, and then improvise for 4 times through the improvisation section for a total of 16 bars of improvisation, then play the written part again from the *del segno* to the *fine* ending.

Bass players, we'll ask you to play the tune as written, then play the tune with a bass line groove, then improvise for 4x through the improvisation section, then play the tune or the groove for the last time through the song.

Guitarists and pianists, we'll ask you to play the written melody, then comp for a couple times through the improv section, then solo through the improv section, then play the written melody again.

Drummers, we'll ask you to play an appropriate part along with recording. The auditioner may ask you to solo, or to trade fours.

3. Sight Reading

We'll provide music to sight-read for your in-person audition at the venue.

That's all! If you have any questions, please contact Steven Lugerner at slugerner@stanfordjazz.org.