



Giant Steps Big Bands 2023-2024 Auditions

Welcome! We're very happy you're interested in auditioning for the Giant Steps Big Band program! Please read these instructions carefully, and you'll be well-prepared for your audition.

Auditions will be held at Stanford University during the day on Saturday August 26 and Sunday August 27. If you can't make those dates, please contact us at registrar@stanfordjazz.org.

This document tells you how to schedule your audition and access to the materials you need to prepare. 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:
registrar@stanfordjazz.org

For questions about the band experience:
Steven Lugerner, slugerner@stanfordjazz.org

1. Schedule your audition

To schedule your audition, just click on the link below.

[CLICK TO SCHEDULE YOUR AUDITION](#)

We'll send you a confirmation email once you have chosen your preferred auditioned date and time. See the next page for more about how to prepare for your audition.

2. Download your audition materials

[**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD SHEET MUSIC.**](#)

Excerpts

Download and practice the excerpt corresponding to your instrument. Practice with a metronome until you feel confident. Some excerpts are only one page long, others are two pages long; prepare all of the music on all pages.

Excerpts are included for:

- Alto sax and bari sax
- Tenor sax
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Piano
- Bass
- Guitar

In addition to the excerpt, be prepared to play a chromatic scale, ascending and descending in quarter notes at quarter-note=100, starting from the lowest to the highest note that you can play.

- Piano and guitar: Be prepared to play chords in different voicings that you know.

- Drums: Be prepared to play as many of the following grooves as you know:

Up-tempo swing

Medium swing

Medium shuffle

12/8 slow swing

Ballad with brushes

Swing with brushes

Rock ballad

Funk

Samba

Cha-Cha

Mambo (2-3, and 3-2 claves)

Reggae

New Orleans street beat, second-line drumming

Rock

3. Improvisation

For the improvisation portion of your audition, please prepare “Dorian’s Lament,” using the version on SJW’s placement player app.

CLICK TO GO TO THE SJW PLACEMENT PLAYER APP

- On the first screen, read the instructions carefully, then click the “Get Started” button
- On the second screen, select your instrument.
- On the third screen, select “Dorian’s Lament”.
- On the fourth screen, read the instructions, then select “Practice with this” to practice the melody with a sample horn section, or select “Record with this” to practice the melody on your own.

At your audition, we’ll ask you to play and improvise on Dorian’s Lament while the committee plays the backing track on a bluetooth speaker.

3. Sight Reading

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