



## Miles Ahead Big Bands 2024-2025 Auditions

Welcome! We're very happy you're interested in auditioning for the Miles Ahead Big Band program! These award-winning bands have a wonderful history, and we're all excited to be able to get back to playing in person again! 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 24 and Sunday August 25.
- Drum auditions will be held on Monday August 26th from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- Overflow auditions will be held 8/26, 8/27, and 8/28 from 3:00 - 8:00 p.m.
- All auditions will be in person. We won't be holding online auditions this season.

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](mailto:registrar@stanfordjazz.org)

For questions about the band experience:

Steven Lugerner, [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto: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 YOUR AUDITION MATERIALS.\*\*](#)

### Sheet music excerpts

Download and practice the excerpt corresponding to your instrument. Practice with a metronome until you feel confident, following these specific instructions:

- **Alto sax, tenor sax, and bari sax:** Play measures 196-230 at a tempo of ♩ = 172
- **Trumpets:** Play measures 132-167 at a tempo of ♩ = 190
- **Trombones:** Play measures 77-94, then measures 163-178 at a tempo of ♩ = 172
- **Piano, bass, guitar, and vibes:** Play “Perdido” from letter A to letter B.

### Prepared piece: “Donna Lee”

- **All instruments except drums:** Play the melody of “Donna Lee” at a tempo between ♩ = 132 - 190

### Scales

Be prepared to play a chromatic scale, ascending and descending in eighth notes at ♩ = 160, starting from the lowest note and going to the highest note you can play on your instrument.

### Drummers and bassists

**Drums:** be prepared to play at least 32 bars of each of the following grooves. You will be asked to play a selection of these at your audition, not all of them.

Up-tempo swing	Funk
Medium swing	Samba
Medium shuffle	Cha-Cha
12/8 slow swing	Mambo (2-3, and 3-2 claves)
Ballad with brushes	Reggae
Swing with brushes	New Orleans street beat, second-line drumming
Rock ballad	Rock

**Bass:** Be prepared to demonstrate styles such as swing, half-time ballad, rock, samba, cha-cha, funk, and mambo (tumbao) in the key of your choice.

### 3. Improvisation

For the improvisation portion of your audition, please prepare Charlie Parker's "Yardbird Suite," using the version on SJW's placement player app.

#### **CLICK TO GO TO THE SJW PLACEMENT PLAYER APP**

- Click on the button for your instrument
- Follow along with the instructions on the on-screen sheet music, or download the sheet music using the download button
- **Melody instruments:** Play the melody of "Yardbird Suite" and then solo for one chorus, for a total of two choruses.
- **Piano, guitar, and vibes:** Play the melody of "Yardbird Suite," comp for one chorus, and solo for one chorus, for a total of three choruses.
- **Bass:** Play the melody of "Yardbird Suite," walk for one chorus, and solo for one chorus, for a total of three choruses.
- Practice along with the play-along track in the app
- At your audition, we'll have the play-along track for you.

### 3. Sight Reading

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

### 4. Be prepared for anything

The audition team may ask you to play something that has not been listed here. Give them your best!

That's all! If you have any questions, please contact Steven Luger at [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org).