



## Giant Steps Big Band 2026-2027 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 29th** and **Sunday August 30th**. All auditions will be in person, no online auditions will be held. 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 scheduling questions:

[registrar@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:registrar@stanfordjazz.org)

For questions about the GSBB experience:

Steven Lugerner, [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org)

### 1. Schedule your audition

To schedule your audition, just click one of the links below:

Giant Steps Big Band North - Tuesday rehearsals from 6:30-8:30pm in Millbrae - <https://calendar.app.google/CbJDCeksx1tAqv9w9>

Giant Steps Big Band South – Wednesday rehearsals from 6:30-8:30pm in Cupertino/South Bay - <https://calendar.app.google/YvDYAcJUEofUz6ER9>

Giant Steps Big Band Mid-Peninsula – Thursday rehearsals from 6:30-8:30pm in Palo Alto - <https://calendar.app.google/oeZiY4suY23ue3de7>

Sign up for one audition, choose whichever location/day of the week works best for your family. All sign up links above will ask students if they'd like to be considered for multiple/all GSBB locations. If you'd like to audition on two different instruments, please sign up for two time slots above.

### 2. Download your audition materials

Click here to download your audition materials:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xnVgj6xxJh1sjFg3ReVuDUK4Kg4gwr5V?usp=sharing>

### 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 the music on all pages.

Excerpts are provided for alto sax, bari sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, and guitar — these (+ drums) are the only instruments considered for the Giant Steps Big Band program.

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

- Piano and guitar: Be prepared to play chords in as many different voicings as you can.
- Drums: Be prepared to play the following grooves. You won't be asked to play all of these, but be ready to play as many as you can:

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

### Improvisation

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

Click here to go to the SJW placement player app: <https://sjw-placement-player.netlify.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," and we'll play the backing track on a Bluetooth speaker. If you'd like to prepare a more challenging piece to improvise on, feel free to choose any of the songs available on the SJW Placement Player App.

### Sight Reading

We'll provide music to sight-read for your in-person audition when you arrive.

### 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 Lugerner at [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org).

### Results and Registration

Accepted students will be notified as soon as decisions are made and will complete their registration through SJW's website.