



# Miles Ahead Big Band

## 2026-2027 Auditions

We're very happy you're interested in auditioning for the Miles Ahead Big Band program! Please read the following information carefully so you can be well-prepared for your audition:

- Auditions will take place at Stanford University during the day on Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- Drum auditions will be held on Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, from 3:00–8:00 p.m.
- Overflow auditions (for all instruments) will be scheduled as needed on Sept 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, also from 3:00–8:00 p.m.
- All auditions will be in person. We will not be holding online auditions this season.

This document includes instructions on how to schedule your audition and access the materials you'll need to prepare. The audition materials are designed to be accessible and enjoyable — and they help our faculty get a sense of your musical experience and skill level.

**If you have any questions, feel free to reach out:**

For scheduling questions: [registrar@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:registrar@stanfordjazz.org)

For questions about the band experience: Steven Lugerner – [slugerner@stanfordjazz.org](mailto:slugerner@stanfordjazz.org)

We look forward to hearing you play!

### 1. Schedule your audition

Schedule your audition (all instruments, except drums): <https://calendar.app.google/gTH3qvJrTEicGHhr5>

If you play drums: <https://calendar.app.google/hY3NPoP6DggZqxht5>

If you'd like to be considered on two different instruments, sign up for two separate audition slots.

### 2. Download your audition materials

Audition materials are available at this link:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fa3hr\\_vGJxl7-dgGDuE\\_08l9gHorSZ7?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Fa3hr_vGJxl7-dgGDuE_08l9gHorSZ7?usp=sharing)

### Sheet Music Excerpts

Download and practice the excerpt corresponding to your instrument. Practice with a metronome until you feel confident. All players interested in the top MABB or lead chairs in any of the ensembles should additionally prepare the excerpts marked "LEAD". Only the following instruments will be considered for the program: alto sax, bari sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar, drums & vibraphone.

## Scales

Be prepared to play a chromatic scale, ascending and descending in triplets at  $J = 120$ , starting from the lowest note and going to the highest note you can play on your instrument.

## Rhythm Section Players

**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
- 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

**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.

**Piano and guitar:** Be prepared to play chords in as many different voicings as you can. Piano and guitar amp will be provided at your audition.

**Vibraphone:** Prepare the materials labeled for pianists. Vibraphone will be provided at your audition.

## Improvisation

For the improvisation portion of your audition, be prepared to play in-person Duke Pearson's "Big Bertha." If you play the drums, please instead prepare Cedar Walton's "Fantasy in D." Our directors will have play-along tracks for both of these songs cued up on a bluetooth speaker for your audition.

Sheet music and play-along track for "Big Bertha" is downloadable from this link: <https://sjw-placement-player.netlify.app/>

Students should prepare the melody and at least one chorus of improvisation. FYI, this is the same link we sent to our Jazz Camp students – please disregard any reference to recording yourself at home – this portion of the audition will happen in-person and we use this link simply to share these PDFs more easily.

Sheet music and play-along track for "Fantasy in D" (**drummers only**) is downloadable from this link: [https://sjw-placement-player.netlify.app/i/drums/s/fantasy\\_in\\_d/p/Drums](https://sjw-placement-player.netlify.app/i/drums/s/fantasy_in_d/p/Drums) - Prepare according to the instructions listed in this PDF

## Sight Reading

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

## Be Prepared for Anything

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

## Results & Registration

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

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