

SUNY Fredonia School of Music

BA in Jazz Audition Requirements

In addition to satisfying the classical audition requirements, applicants for the BA in Jazz Studies major must complete the following jazz requirements. Accompaniment will be provided, although you must bring three copies of each lead sheet (melody with chord symbols) in concert key (drummers exempt).

Jazz Trumpet/Trombone/Saxophone

- Two contrasting jazz standards (such as “Autumn Leaves” as a medium swing and “Blue Bossa” as a Latin tune);
 1. Play one chorus of melody,
 2. Followed by two choruses of improvised solo.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces;
- Selected major and minor scales the full range of your instrument.

Jazz Piano

- Two contrasting jazz standards (such as “Autumn Leaves” as a medium swing and “Blue Bossa” as a Latin tune);
 1. Play one chorus of melody in right hand with left hand comping,
 2. Followed by one chorus of two-handed comping,
 3. Followed by one chorus of improvised solo.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces;
- Selected major and minor scales.

Jazz Guitar

- Two contrasting jazz standards (such as “Autumn Leaves” as a medium swing and “Blue Bossa” as a Latin tune);
 1. Play one chorus of melody,
 2. Followed by one chorus of comping,
 3. Followed by one chorus of improvised solo.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces;
- Selected major and minor scales.

Jazz Bass

- Two contrasting jazz standards (such as “Autumn Leaves” as a medium swing and “Blue Bossa” as a Latin tune);
 1. Play one chorus of melody,
 2. Followed by one chorus of walking bass line (or other appropriate bass line on a Latin tune),
 3. Followed by one chorus of improvised solo.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces;
- Selected major and minor scales.

Note: Only acoustic double bassists are considered for admission. However, applicants who double on electric bass may bring both instruments to the audition.

Jazz Drums

- Demonstrate the following grooves/styles:
 1. Medium swing (with both sticks and brushes)
 2. Fast swing/Bebop
 3. Swing shuffle
 4. Bossa Nova
 5. Samba
 6. Jazz waltz.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces.

Note: Kit will be provided. Applicants should bring sticks, brushes, and cymbals (if desired), but keep in mind time allows only for minor adjustments to equipment.

Jazz Voice

- Two contrasting jazz standards (such as “Autumn Leaves” as a medium swing and “Blue Bossa” as a Latin tune);
 1. Sing one chorus of melody,
 2. Followed by one chorus of improvised solo.
- Sight-reading of jazz pieces;
- Sing major and minor scales of your choosing and a chromatic scale.

Note: This audition will also include aural recall (singing back a series of pitches played at the piano) and harmonic identification (singing the notes you hear when a chord is played at the piano). Accompaniment will be provided unless you prefer to provide your own.