

2024-25 VMHS Instrumental Music Program Jazz Placement Audition Packet

Enclosed you will find everything you need for your placement audition. Based upon your audition, you will be placed into one of the following four jazz groups:

Jazz I

(Made up of the top players on campus)

Jazz II

(An intermediate group. Typically made up of some Seniors,
But is mostly Juniors, Sophomores, and Freshmen)

Jazz III

(Designed to develop musical skills and prepare students for the more advanced ensembles.
Typically made up of Juniors and Sophomores but is mostly Freshmen)

Music auditions will take place after school on **May 6th**. "Make up auditions" are a possibility and can be scheduled by contacting Mr. Ragsdale ASAP. All **new** students interested in auditioning **MUST** attend the MANDATORY Parent Information Meeting **WITH A PARENT**.

Information Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 23rd

Wednesday, April 24th

New students will sign up for an audition time during the parent meetings.

For more information, please visit our website at www.vmhsband.com.

*Remember, Jazz, concert band, and marching percussion have separate auditions.

All audition results will be posted on the "Audition Results" link on the "Resources" page of the band website www.vmhsband.com on Wednesday, May 10th.

Jazz Audition Requirements:

****Note:** Do your best. If you can't play everything, or you are a complete beginner, you are still encouraged to audition. You will be placed in the best group that matches your abilities!

Wind players, Guitarists, Pianists and Mallet players should play the following:

1. All 12 Major scales (or as many as you know) in under 2 minutes.
2. The melody to the song **Apple Jump** (Sheet music provided. Slow tempo is ok!)
3. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart (Something you believe shows you at your best!)
 - **Lead Trumpet Players:** Consider showing your range with this excerpt.
4. Solo improvisation to the blues in F or Bb concert (to a recorded track that will be provided) ****Optional, but required for Jazz 1****
5. Sight Reading (music will be provided at the audition)

Guitar and Piano Players: Demonstrate your knowledge of chord voicings on a ii-V-I chord progression in the keys of Bb and F

Bassists:

1. Play a walking bass line to the chord changes of a blues in Bb or F.
2. A jazz tune, etude, or transcription of your choice or an excerpt from a jazz band chart.
3. All 12 Major scales (or as many as you know) in under 2 minutes.
4. Sight Read (music will be provided at the audition)

Drummers play the following:

1. Swing time at quarter = 60, 120, & 240
2. Swing Time on Brushes = 120
3. Bossa Nova groove at 120, Samba groove at 240
4. Funk at 60
5. Rock groove at 120
6. Play with a recording on a song of your choice.
7. Sight Read (music will be provided at the audition)

Please read the attached rubric carefully – each component of the audition will be scored on a scale of 1-10 based on the rubric. Auditions will be scheduled in seven-minute time intervals.

MY AUDITION DAY AND TIME: _____

Concert Key (Piano, Guitar)



4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for "Apple Jump" is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 164 beats per minute. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music features a variety of chords, including major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads, as well as seventh chords and dyads. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The piece is attributed to Dexter Gordon and is intended to be played six times.

Eb Version (Alto Sax, Bari Sax)

E_b

4. Apple Jump

E_b

PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for "Apple Jump" is written for Eb instruments in 4/4 time. It consists of eight staves of music. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 164 beats per minute. The score includes various chords and melodic lines. The chords are: DA, E-, F°7, F#-, B7, E-, A7, DA, D7, GA, Ab°7, DA, B-7, E-7, A7, DA, E-7, F°7, F#-7, B7, E-7, A7b, DA, D7, GA, Ab°7, DA, B-7, E-, A7, DA, F#7, F#7, B7, B7, E7, E7, A7, A7, DA, E-7, F°7, F#-7, B7, E-7, A7, DA, D7, GA, Ab°7, DA, B-7, E-7, A7, DA.

Bb Version (Trumpets, Tenor Sax)

B \flat

4. Apple Jump

B \flat

PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for "Apple Jump" is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 164 beats per minute. It consists of seven staves of music. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score includes various chord symbols such as G Δ , A $^-$, B \flat $^{\circ}$ 7, B $^-$, E7, A $^-$, D7, G Δ , G7, C Δ , C \sharp $^{\circ}$ 7, E $^-$ 7, A $^-$ 7, B \flat $^{\circ}$ 7, B $^-$ 7, A $^-$ 7, D7, G Δ , G7, C Δ , C \sharp $^{\circ}$ 7, E $^-$ 7, A $^-$, D7, G Δ , B7, B7, E7, E7, A7, A7, D7, D7, G Δ , A $^-$ 7, B \flat $^{\circ}$ 7, B $^-$ 7, E7, A $^-$ 7, D7, G Δ , G7, C Δ , C \sharp $^{\circ}$ 7, G Δ , E $^-$ 7, and a circled A $^-$ 7 D7 G Δ . The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Bass Clef C Version (Trombones, Bass)



4. Apple Jump



PLAY 6 TIMES (♩ = 164)

By Dexter Gordon

The musical score for "Apple Jump" is written in bass clef C major, 4/4 time, with a tempo of 164 beats per minute. It consists of seven staves of music. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and various chords. The chords are labeled as follows:

- Staff 1: FΔ, G-, Ab°7, A-, D7, G-, C7
- Staff 2: FΔ, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FΔ, D-7, G-7, C7
- Staff 3: FΔ, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7b, G-7, C7b, FΔ, F7
- Staff 4: BbΔ, B°7, FΔ, D-7, G-, C7, FΔ, A7
- Staff 5: A7, D7, D7, G7, G7
- Staff 6: C7, C7, FΔ, G-7, Ab°7, A-7, D7b
- Staff 7: G-7, C7b, FΔ, F7, BbΔ, B°7, FΔ, D-7, ⊕G-7, C7, FΔ