Campus Jazz Ensemble Audition Information

All players should bring in a short piece or etude demonstrative of their current musical and technical abilities, jazz-related or not. Please address questions to atpeck@umich.edu. If you are in a bind as to what to play, please email and something suitable can more than likely be provided!

Trumpet players should prepare an etude or study demonstrating range and style. A jazz-related study/transcription is preferred, but not imperative. Classical etudes and studies that adequately demonstrate tone, range, rhythm, articulation and dynamics are also acceptable for this audition.

Trombone players can prepare a jazz etude for instance, one of Jack Gale’s etudes or solo transcription by JJ Johnson, Curtis Fuller, etc. Any classical etude, study or excerpt that demonstrates sound projection, sense of rhythm and dynamics will also be acceptable. Big band section sight-reading will be required and you will be encouraged (but not required!) to play an improvised solo.

Sax/reed players should prepare a solo or head (or both) either improvised, pre-transcribed (e.g. Charlie Parker Omnibook) or their own transcription. Classical etudes are welcome as well. Reed doubling capabilities (clarinet, etc.) should be demonstrated if possible on the audition by whatever means the player wishes.

Chordal rhythm section players - bass (electric and/or upright), piano, guitar - should be able to comp on a blues (e.g. Billie’s Bounce, Now’s the Time, etc.) and/or rhythm changes (32 bar) form (I Got Rhythm, Anthropology, Oleo, etc.) at a medium or medium up tempo. Written-out bass lines of these will be provided as well as chord changes, so improvisation skills are not completely necessary! Sight-reading will also be provided at the audition.

Drummer/percussionists should demonstrate his/her ability to keep time in a swing setting as well as in a straight-eighth pattern (bossa, samba or funk/rock style). Players with a background in hand percussion or auxiliary/Latin percussion (conga, timbale etc.) should let the panel know about any doubles or vibraphone experience. Drums will be provided, but set players should bring their own cymbals, brushes and sticks!

For all players, being able to play an improvised solo is a big plus, but is not necessary! Solo techniques will be covered over the semester and players will be encouraged to perform improvised solos at performances.

Audition signup will be through Google forms. Please email atpeck@gmail.com to request access to the form. Actual auditions will take place on Tuesday the 8th of September, 2015 between 8 and 10 pm during the group’s normal rehearsal time and at the normal rehearsal location: Rehearsal Hall, Room 1320 in the Moore Building on North Campus.