

Jazz Educators of Iowa

2008-09 IOWA ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLES AUDITION INFORMATION

The following information outlines audition procedures for the 2009 Iowa All-State Jazz Ensembles. This statewide project is organized and implemented by Jazz Educators of Iowa and offers the opportunity for outstanding high school jazz musicians to work together and perform with highly respected jazz educators. **Members of JEI receive a discount on audition fees, so now is the perfect time to join!** Please visit www.nsband.com/JEI.htm for more information.

A class 1A-2A ensemble and a class 3A-4A ensemble will be selected from submitted audition recordings. Both groups perform at the 2009 Iowa Bandmasters Conference in Des Moines on Saturday, May 16. Rehearsals take place on May 14 and 15.

Audition Requirements

Submit a tape or CD with the following (in this order):

1. All major scales in 16th notes at quarter note = 88 (as many octaves as possible). Slur ascending and tongue descending OR tongue ascending and slur descending.
2. All three 2008-09 etudes (*Swing*, *Ballad* and *Latin*). Etudes must be unaccompanied.
3. **Optional** improvisation. The student may submit one or both of the following:
 - a. Three to five choruses of blues in B-flat or F, accompanied by a live OR pre-recorded rhythm section. Students may play a “head” but are not required to do so.
 - b. One or two choruses of “Rhythm” changes in B-flat, accompanied by a live OR pre-recorded rhythm section. Students may play a “head” but are not required to do so.

Drum set players will submit the following (in this order):

1. All three 2008-09 etudes (*Swing*, *Ballad* and *Latin*). Etudes must be unaccompanied.
2. Short (about 30 seconds) examples of the following styles:
 - a. Up-tempo swing (quarter note = 184)
 - b. Bossa nova (quarter note = 120)
 - c. Funk groove, a la Tower of Power (quarter note = 96)
3. A solo in any style (not to exceed two minutes).

Please note:

- **Materials must be postmarked on or before January 30, 2009.**
- The 2008-09 etudes are available on the JEI webpage (www.nsband.com/JEI.htm) as FREE downloads.
- Submit each student on a separate tape or CD.
- There are “lead” and “section” parts for trumpet and “lead,” “section” and “bass” parts for trombone. The student and director should pick the most comfortable part AND indicate that part on the application.
- Lead trumpet/trombone auditions WILL be considered for section trumpet/trombone positions.
- Students may NOT audition on more than one instrument or part.

- NO speaking of any kind is allowed on the recording.
- Make NO markings on the CD or tape. You may include the student name on the CD or tape CASE only.

Selection

Each recording is assigned a code for anonymity. A committee of jazz educators and musicians from throughout the state will select the two jazz ensembles. Results will be **emailed** to all participating directors by March 2, 2009 (please note the email address line on the registration form).

2008-09 All-State Jazz Ensemble Directors

Chris Merz (1A/2A band) is the Director of Jazz Studies at UNI. He directs award winning UNI Jazz Band One, coordinates the combo program, and teaches applied saxophone and other jazz-related courses. He has performed with Dave Brubeck, Rachabane, Winston Mankunku Ngosi, Hugh Masekela, and Joseph Shabalala, and Des Moines organist Sam Salamone. He has played lead alto saxophone with several East Coast big bands, including the Cecil Bridgewater Big Band. His own projects include the X-tet, a 12-piece big band, and Equilateral, a chordless quartet. He has several compact discs to his credit and has received commissions from university and high school jazz ensembles throughout the country. He is also a highly sought after guest soloist, clinician and conductor at university and high school jazz festivals nationwide.

Dean Sorenson (3A/4A band) is the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Minnesota as well as a prolific and highly sought-after composer, arranger, trombonist, educator, and clinician. Mr. Sorenson is the co-author of the highly successful *Standard of Excellence Jazz Ensemble Method*, an innovative and comprehensive method book for young jazz ensembles. He has also composed and arranged for numerous ensembles, including the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Airmen of Note, the United States Air Force Band, and for brass ensembles Proteus 7 and the Chestnut Brass Company. He is active as a commissioned composer and arranger for jazz ensemble, concert band, and chamber ensembles, and has also written several sacred choral pieces. Mr. Sorenson is frequently featured at festivals and conventions around the country and abroad and maintains a full schedule of concert and recording dates as a Yamaha performing artist.

Fall JEI Meeting & Jazz Music Reading Session

Two important JEI events will take place on Friday, November 21, at the IMEA conference in Ames. Please join us for our fall business meeting at 4:00 p.m. and the new music reading session at 6:15 p.m. The reading session, organized by President-Elect Rod Pierson, will feature a live big band playing excerpts of new titles from the major publishers. Both events will be held in Benton Auditorium on the ISU campus.

Hall of Fame Nominations

All members of the former IAJE (Iowa Unit) Hall of Fame will become members of the new JEI Hall of Fame. Please email nominations (preferably with a short biography) for new members to me by November 14. Candidates should be jazz educators from our K-12 schools, colleges or universities. The executive committee will narrow the list to two individuals, and the membership will vote via email. Current Hall of Fame members are listed on the website.

Thank you for your interest in jazz education. Please contact me with any questions about JEI membership or the All-State Jazz Ensemble audition process.

Sincerely,

Steve Shanley
 President, Jazz Educators of Iowa
 Cedar Rapids Washington High School
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 (h) 319-373-7410
 steve.shanley@gmail.com

Jazz Educators of Iowa

2008-09 IOWA ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLES

AUDITION FORM

(Please type or print)

STUDENT NAME: _____

INSTRUMENT (circle one):

Alto Saxophone Tenor Saxophone Baritone Saxophone
Lead Trumpet Section Trumpet
Lead Trombone Section Trombone Bass Trombone
Piano Bass Guitar Drum Set Vibes

DOUBLES (woodwind players only): _____

DIRECTOR NAME: _____

SCHOOL NAME: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

This is how directors will be notified of the results – please print clearly!

SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION (circle one): 1A 2A 3A 4A

ENTRY FEE (circle one): \$30 OR \$25 (discount for current JEI members)

Checks payable to “Jazz Educators of Iowa”

RECORDINGS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF PAYMENT IS NOT ENCLOSED!

POSTMARK DEADLINE IS JANUARY 30, 2009

Send recording, this form and fee (all under ONE cover) to:

Steve Shanley
Washington High School
2205 Forest Dr. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403