

UW-Eau Claire Jazz Studies Audition Letter

Hello everyone,

Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable break, practiced a lot and became one step closer to those post graduation dreams. Dr. Crowell and I are looking forward to seeing you again as we fire up the Spring 2023 semester. We have many great plans for the semester and are excited to get things rolling!

Practice Hard

Play Pretty

Mr. Baca

Dr. Crowell

Jazz Auditions Spring 2023

Audition Dates and Times:

Wednesday, February 1st (HFA 161 - Philips Recital Hall)

12:00pm-2:00pm - Saxophones

2:00pm-3:30pm - Rhythm Section

Thursday, February 2nd (HFA 246)

12:00pm-1:30pm - Trumpets

1:30pm-3:30pm - Trombones

Audition Instructions:

Part One: Required Auditions Piece

1. Follow this link to download the audition pieces:
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H93hOfxvEqhIPnlxEJr0pE6DcqRPfDX8?usp=share_link
2. Choose any part (ie: Tpt 1, 2, 3, or 4)
3. **This semester, you may choose any part of the piece to play. Choose a section that will show off your best skills!**
4. A recording of the piece is also in the drive folder

Tip: The adjudicators are looking for 1. Solid Tone 2. Solid Rhythm in the style. Play the music at a tempo that has solid tone first and then solid rhythm. Do not play faster until these elements are there. This piece does not have to be up to the recorded tempo. Drums: play as if you are performing with the ensemble.

Part Two: Play a Prepared Piece (Optional)

We want to hear you at your very best! *It is not required, but highly recommended that you play a prepared piece.* This piece may be a jazz transcription, etude, or improvisation solo played with a recording or backing track.

Auditioning with woodwind doubles for saxophonists:

Since there will be selections this spring that require saxophone doubles, saxophonists are encouraged to play a short piece performing their doubles. This will be in addition to their saxophone audition

Part Three: Improvisation (Optional)

Improvisation:

If you improvise, you can solo with a pre-recorded play-a-long rhythm section, a blues, and rhythm changes tune is preferred. Expect to play a head and a few choruses.

Part Four: Audition Form

Please fill out this form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc4eGcws2XQmQbaPwx11U42S7O4RdV5scKDES0OOhvEtE-Di_A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Sign up for the audition here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1F_D4sVAO9m_GYTLOdVLYM3ltZ93pu4x4jPBMz8euS20/edit?usp=sharing

If you have any questions, please contact Kate Rosenberger (rosenbk13417@uwec.edu).

Time Commitment

Jazz 1:

T/TH - 12:30pm-1:45pm and F - 1:00pm-1:50pm

Jazz 2:

M/W: 12:00pm-12:50pm

Jazz 3:

M/W: 1:00pm-1:50pm

Jazz 4:

M/W: 11:00pm-11:50

Combos:

The combo meeting time is set by the student members and the instructor of the group. Please email Kate Rosenberger (rosenbk13417@uwec.edu) if interested in playing in a combo.

Our Faculty

Director of the UW-Eau Claire Jazz Studies Area and Director of Jazz Ensemble I and II:

Robert Baca

Co-Director of the Jazz Studies Area and Director of Jazz Ensemble III: Dr. Jeffery Crowell

Director of Combos: Dr. Aaron Hedenstrom

Jazz Guitar: Felipe Vargas Magdaleno

Jazz Bass: Jeremy Boettcher

Jazz Drums: Brian Claxton

Questions and Answers

What are the adjudicators looking for?

Judges always look for tone and rhythm first! Having a good sound means having a good tone, being in tune, and expressing dynamics well. They also look for good improvisation skills. You have worked hard on your audition preparation! Show them what you can do!

Do I need to be a music major to play in Jazz Ensemble?

No matter your commitment level to your musical instrument there is an ensemble for you. UW-Eau Claire has a large jazz studies area with lot of ensembles specifically so students coming from every commitment level can play in a jazz ensemble if they want to. So, if you had a ball playing in jazz ensemble in high school and have a been away from your instrument for a while, dust it off, bring the polish back out and join us. We have an ensemble for everyone!

What makes the UW-Eau Claire Jazz Ensembles unique?

The jazz program at UWEC is built on a positive environment that encourages students to constantly strive for excellence, rehearsing together, participating in combos, or getting involved off campus and in the community. Furthermore, the jazz program focuses not only technique, but real-world applications that prepare students for every facet of life.

What does a week usually look like in a Jazz Ensemble?

Those participating in a jazz ensemble or combo usually practices 1 or more hours a day and then has 2 full jazz ensemble rehearsals every week, each one 1-1 1/2 hours long. In this class, they not only rehearse, but discuss jazz techniques, pedagogy, performing, and frequently bring in guest artists like Carl Allen or Doc Severinsen!

Does the university supply instruments if I don't have one?

Yes, the university supplies you with an instrument and locker if you don't have one, free of charge. Checking out the instrument is a simple process.