

Miami Valley Jazz Summer Camp 2016
Student Placement Audition Night
Wednesday, June 1st, 2016, Kettering Fairmont High School
5 - 8 pm

About Student Placement Auditions and the Jazz Music Theory Survey

You are already Registered and in the Jazz Camp!

All Miami Valley Jazz Summer Camp students will be assigned to a Combo and a Big Band for the week of Camp based upon their current playing ability (assessed during a 10-minute placement audition) and their current knowledge of music theory (assessed through a written Jazz Music Theory Survey which takes about 20 to 30 minutes to complete). These two assessments will be done on Camp Placement Audition Night.

We strive to make the Jazz Camp a valuable – and fun! -- learning environment for middle and high school students to grow and develop your love for jazz music and your jazz playing skills -- where students are challenged and engaged, but not overwhelmed or covering skills you have already mastered. To create the best possible learning environment for all Camp students, we use the placement audition and skills survey to help place students in groups and classes with other students of comparable knowledge and musical abilities. There is no “failing” the audition or written skills survey. Through these two assessment tools, you have the chance to show us what you already know and where you are currently at in your playing ability and knowledge of jazz music theory. Don’t panic if your audition instructor asks you to do something you’re not sure how to do or the survey questions cover theory you don’t know. The best way for us to find out what you can truly do is to be relaxed and confident – **just come in and do what you can do to the best of your abilities!**

Jazz Camp Placement Audition

Download Music and/or Instructions from the Dayton Jazz Orchestra.com website link

Pick Any Two Selections from the Downloadable Audition Music to Play at the Audition

(Drummers - See the Downloadable “All Drummers Audition Music”

In general, the placement audition will be conducted by a member of our staff faculty with expertise in your instrument area and will evaluate the following student skills:

- Improvisation (if possible) on Blues in keys of B Flat or F (play-along CDs are acceptable)
- Major scales
- Two prepared pieces (from the downloadable Audition Music). Please note that we are using two pieces to assess a wide range of age and experience levels. We realize these pieces may be challenging or contain elements that are beyond your current playing level **and** that you are being given a short time to prepare these pieces. **Play what you can, and do your best! Recently graduated 8th Graders going into High School have the option of preparing the Middle School or High School pieces.**

Woodwind and Brass Instrument Players

We will have you read notes and rhythms from printed big band and/or jazz combo charts. We'll also try to find out which, if any, scales you know. We will play a play-along CD and an instructor will blow some blues with you, just to hear how you respond, and learn about your level of jazz music experience.

Piano Players

We will have you read notes and rhythms from printed big band and/or jazz combo charts. We'll also try to find out which, if any, scales and chord voicings you know and see if you are able to accompany an instructor on a blues tune. During the audition, let us know what equipment you can bring to Camp – electric keyboard, amp, patch cord, sustain pedal.

Bass Players

We will have you read notes and rhythms from printed big band and/or jazz combo charts and listen to you develop a walking line from chord changes, if you are able. We'll also try to find out which, if any, scales and chord voicings you know, and see how you do with spelling chords. During the audition, let us know what equipment you can bring to camp – upright or electric bass, amp, and patch chord.

Guitar Players

We will have you read notes and rhythms for printed big band and/or jazz combo charts. We'll also try to find out which, if any scales and chord voicings you know, and have you comp along with an instructor on a blues. During the audition, let us know what equipment you can bring to Camp – guitar, amp, and patch chord.

Drummers & Percussion

Drummers – Download from the Dayton Jazz Orchestra.com website the link entitled:

“All Drummers Audition Music”