



Here's your chance to audition for an exciting new ensemble! Announcing the *2023 Saskatchewan Jazz Honour Band.*

Auditions will consist of audio recordings submitted along with a completed application form. Once received, your audio files will be given a number assigned to your name. You **MUST NOT** identify yourself by name or speak in the audio recordings you submit. If you do, your application will be disqualified. These are "blind" auditions meaning those who listen to/evaluate the recordings are to do so without knowing to whom they are listening.

The audition deadline is Friday, January 20, 2023. All those auditioning will be contacted by email in early February to let them know if their audition was successful in earning a spot in this year's group.

Note that, while there is no charge for auditioning, successful candidates will be asked to pay a registration fee of **\$65** to participate in the Honour Band. Selected Honour Band participants will be required to complete the registration and payment to receive their music and additional Honour Band details. The Saskatchewan Jazz Honour Band event will take place on March 3 & 4 in Regina, culminating in a short evening performance.

We're looking for students who will demonstrate commitment to "shedding" (learning their parts) **before** the March 3 & 4 rehearsals, in order to make this experience as musically rewarding as it can be.

Audition Requirements

Don't let the idea of an audition scare you; we just want to hear you play and get a sense of where you're at.

You **MUST include requirements # 1 – 3** below in your recording. Audition **item #4** – intended to showcase your improvisation skills – is optional, but should be included if you wish to be considered as a soloist with the band.

Your audition must include the following – all as a single recording (remember do NOT identify yourself on the recording):

- 1. Saxophone, Trombone, Trumpet players:** play a chromatic scale legato tongued over *your* playing range, ascending and descending in eighth notes with an audible

metronome in the background. *Yes, it's good to go fast to showcase your technique, but not if it's uneven/sloppy. So, pick a tempo that demonstrates your technique clearly and cleanly.

Pianists: play a three-octave chromatic scale with two hands ascending and descending. *See the note above.

Bassists: play a 2-octave chromatic scale beginning on low/open E. *See the note above

Guitarists: play a 3-octave chromatic scale beginning on low/open E. *See the note above

2. Perform a prepared jazz study or selection of your choice. (This may even be one of your parts that your high school jazz band is performing this year.) It should at least 16, but no more than 48 bars in length). Try to select a piece or passage which showcases your abilities!
3. For **Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, Piano, Vibes - *Melody for Michelle***

Using [this](#) track, record yourself playing along with *Melody for Michelle*, using headphones so that all that is picked up on the recording is you.

Though all the sheet music is [here](#) one or two are presented with a choice of high or low octave:

Select either the [low](#) or [high](#) bass clef version if you play Trombone.

Select [this](#) version in B^b if you play Tenor Sax or Trumpet.

Select [this](#) version in C if you play Piano or Vibes.

Select [this](#) version in G if you play Alto or Bari Sax.

3. For **Bass & Guitar**
[Here](#) is the **Bass** play-along track and [sheet music](#) for *Falling Leaves*, (source: *Jazz Pedagogy: A Canadian Perspective* - Brian Lillos) which you are to record (instead of *Melody for Michelle*). [Here](#) is the **Guitar** play-along track and [sheet music](#). Please ensure the play-along track is audible as well on the recording.

3. For **Drums**
Dr. Jonathan McCaslin (Four on the Floor) has created some wonderful video resources for you to study and play. The complete YouTube playlist can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXrHzNeAC6A3iKXEspi9-RbOmPFZnoECC>

You are asked to play approximately 30 seconds worth of any/all of the following as to further demonstrate your ability to play a variety of styles:

- The Shuffle, Basic Mambo, Basic Bossa Nova, Basic Samba

Optional – Improvisation Skills

4. Improvise/jam along/solo to the following blues in Bb practice tracks. Again, don't let this scare you, you may not be an experienced improviser; we just want to know where you're at on your musical journey. You may choose to solo using your concert Bb blues scale or "make the changes" by creating ideas that reflect the chords in more detail.

Sax, trumpet, trombone players are to improvise for two choruses (that's solo twice through the 12 bar blues) using [this](#) play-along track.

*Note however the play-along tracks for soloing use the chord changes found by clicking each instrument group below:

[Trombone/Piano/Guitar/Bass/Vibes pdf](#)

[Alto/Bari Sax pdf](#)

[Trumpet/Tenor Sax pdf](#)

Pianists, Guitarists, and Vibraphonists:

In addition to the above, you are to "comp" or play for a chorus or two, demonstrating voicings that use 2 note guide tone voicings (3rds & 7ths) and/or 3 note rootless voicings which to provide rhythmic accompaniment for a soloist. Guitarists should comp by playing four down strokes per bar in the style of Freddie Green. [This](#) is your play-along track. Here is the PDF of the chord changes: [Piano guitar vibes pdf](#)

Bassists:

In addition to what is asked of sax, trumpet, trombone players you are asked to do above, you are asked to record a second version which demonstrates two choruses of walking bass lines over this blues progression that show your ability to create a bass line from chord symbols? [This](#) is your play-along track. Here is the PDF of the chord changes: [Bass PDF](#)

Drummers:

Using the play-along track for a *12-bar blues*, you are to play three choruses of swing time, demonstrating a variety of time keeping patterns for each chorus, indicating the top of the form. [This](#) is your play-along track. There is no PDF for this piece.