

## **Guidelines for LEVEL III Auditions**

for those students performing jazz repertoire

### I. Overview

The Level III Audition (previously referred to as the “Junior Standing” audition) is generally taken at the end of the sophomore year as students prepare to officially confirm their status as music majors.

In this audition, students must demonstrate a minimum intermediate level of proficiency attained on their primary instrument or voice. Also, for degrees such as BA in Performance, BA in Jazz Studies, BS in Music Education, and BM, which include a performance component, students must demonstrate preparation and ability that serves as a predictor of success for the senior recital.

### II. Repertoire

For the Level III Audition, students should prepare at least four pieces in contrasting styles (such as ballad, blues, bebop/up-tempo swing, modal, Latin, jazz waltz or other odd meter, and medium swing). Among basic elements such as expressiveness, intonation, tone quality, swing feel, instrumental balance, and a well-rehearsed ensemble, the performance must demonstrate the student’s ability to “make the changes” (communicating the delineation of the chords), through improvising during pieces that include modulation to various keys.

For non-drummers, at least one piece should be a solo or duo piece, played without drums accompanying. For non-rhythm section instrumentalists or vocalists, ensemble pieces should not feature solos by players other than the auditionee.

In addition to solo improvisation, rhythm section players should demonstrate proficiency in various accompaniment styles (“comping,” walking bass, playing “in two,” etc.). For bassists and drummers, at least one arrangement must feature the auditionee during the head, and one other piece must feature the auditionee prominently throughout the arrangement (e.g., in stop time passages).

### III. Program

Students should prepare a printed program for the Level III Audition and bring nine copies to the audition to distribute to the faculty committee. Include the title of each work and the name and birth-death dates of the composer. Additional program notes may be included.

### IV. Research

Students may be asked questions by the faculty committee and are expected to be able to speak informatively and accurately about the music (e.g., form, key, etc.), the era in which it was composed and/or originally performed, and the composer.

### V. Attire

As practice for situations where casual attire is not appropriate, students should dress semi-formally for the Level III Audition.