

Level IV Jazz Jury

The student must demonstrate proficiency on their primary instrument or voice, performing a broad range of jazz repertoire. The Level IV examination (and consequent senior recital) is meant to show what the student has addressed and accomplished during study at UVM.

The basic elements to be assessed in the performance include:

- expressive playing
- intonation
- tone quality
- swing feel
- instrumental balance
- well-rehearsed ensemble
- “making the changes” (communicating the delineation of the chords), improvising during pieces that include modulation to various keys

Wind players and vocalists:

- perform at least one solo or duo piece (without drums accompanying)
- ensemble pieces should not feature solos by players other than the auditionee

Rhythm section players:

- demonstrate solo improvisation
- 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)
- except for drummers, perform at least one solo or duo piece (played without drums accompanying)

In addition:

- Prepare a printed program for the Level IV Audition Jury and bring nine copies to distribute to the faculty committee.
- 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.
- Students should dress semi-formally for the Level IV examination.
- (N.B. The “tune test” is taken in the semester preceding the Level IV and Senior Recital, during the end-of-semester area jury.)

EQUIPMENT: Requests for use of the Recital Hall jazz equipment (including mics, amps, and drums) should come in writing from the private instructor, addressed to the Jazz Area Head. The private instructor takes responsibility for setting up the equipment, putting it away, and securing the room. All equipment must be set up one half hour before the start of all Level Juries for the day; there is not time for equipment set up in between juries.

The Music Department Office provides personnel only for taking an archival audio recording. Additional requests (e.g. for a sound board or A/V operator) must come in writing from the private instructor **at the beginning of the semester and there is no guarantee that anyone will be available, especially on weekends.**

July 2014

Equipment update 12/3/21