

Level III

For the Level III Audition Jury, 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.

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 III Audition Jury and bring nine copies 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.
- 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.
- As practice for situations in which casual attire is not appropriate, students should dress semi-formally for the Level III Audition.

Students and their accompanists should bring their own equipment for the Level III. If the student has received prior approval for use of departmental equipment such as a drum set or amplifiers, it is the student’s responsibility to arrange for a way to pick up and return the equipment. In any case, 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).

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