

TMEA REGION AND ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE AUDITION TRYOUT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Revised June 2021

TMEA and TJEА cooperatively organize manage and operate the TMEA Region and All-State Jazz Ensemble programs. The jazz ensembles are unique among the TMEA All-State performing ensembles. The group's forty members are comprised of students who each play an un-doubled and individual part, are called upon to improvise extemporaneously in performance, and are selected to one of two All-State ensembles from a single audition at the Region level

AUDITION MATERIAL

1. Audition material for the Region and All-State Jazz Ensembles will come from the TMEA Band Division Chair and including, but not limited to, input from TJEА and utilizing the All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition Etudes and All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition audio files. The audition etudes will be published for all instruments (alto, tenor and baritone saxophones; trumpet; tenor and bass trombone; piano, bass; guitar and drum set). For all instruments except drum set, three written etudes will be required in the styles of Swing, Ballad, and Funk/Latin and one solo/improvisation etude. (Separate solo/improvisation etudes will be used at the Region and State levels. Drum set contestants will play three written etudes in the styles of Swing, Latin and Fusion/Funk with the All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition audio files. Additionally, drum set contestants will be required to play 16 bars each of the following styles. (Tempo markings are approximate.):
 - a. Swing (M.M. 144)
 - b. Funk (M.M. 100)
 - c. Latin/Samba (M.M. 120-200)
 - d. Up-Tempo (M.M. 160+)
2. Some of the etudes for tenor trombone and trumpet may be written in such a manner that the first two-thirds of the etude will be of moderate range and difficulty with the last third reserved for greater range and difficulty. This will allow a Region to use the material at local auditions for students who may not possess the skills for the State level but, may be interested in the Region level. The suggested moderate cut will be marked on the etude. Recording for the State level will include the entire etude.
3. The improvisation and drum etudes will be selected from the ALL- STATE Jazz Ensemble Audition audio files. Audio file are available for purchase with the etudes.

AUDITION PROCESS

AUDITION DATES

1. All-State Auditions must be held between the **third** Saturday of September and the **third** Saturday of October.

STUDENT ENTRY PROCEDURE

1. Each student must be entered by a TMEA Active Member Director/Sponsor using the online entry process.
2. Entry deadline in each Region shall be set by the Region.
3. Each participant will declare his/her intention to be considered for State Level, or Region Level only.
4. Any student entered in the process must meet TMEA eligibility requirement at the time of the audition and must maintain this status for any subsequent rehearsals and/or performances of a Region or All-State ensemble should he/she be selected.
5. A student may not submit a recording for both Area Orchestra and Area Jazz.
6. A student who is selected for the All-State Jazz Ensemble is no longer eligible to participate in any other Area level TMEA contest.

REGION LEVEL AUDITION PROCEDURES

1. TMEA Jazz auditions forms are generated using the official TMEA Audition Tabulation software.
2. Every Judging panel will adhere to the TMEA Audition Rules and Procedures regarding 5 person panels.
3. For all instruments except drum set, each student's audition will consist of one swing, one ballad, and one Latin/funk etude, and two choruses of an improvised solo performance. Each drummer's audition will consist of:
 - a. One Swing etude
 - b. One Latin etude
 - c. One Fusion/Funk etude16 measures each of the following styles:
 - a. Swing (M.M. 144)
 - b. Funk (M.M. 100)
 - c. Latin/Samba (Quarter Note = M.M. 200)
 - d. Up-Tempo (M.M. 160+)
4. With the exception of the aforementioned tenor trombone and trumpet, all etudes must be heard in their entirety. Each etude will be scored on a scale from 0 to 75. If this procedure is being used at Region level only, the trumpet and tenor trombone "moderate cuts" may be used. The improvised solo etude (and drum styles) will be scored on a scale from 0 to 75. This system will allow for a maximum of 300 total points.
5. While performing the improvised solo etude, the contest chair will provide the student the lead sheet "changes" on the music stand, without additional markings. No other materials may be on the music stand.
6. Should the tenor trombone and trumpet sections have entries for both Region and All-State levels, a second complete audition sequence for those wanting to be considered for All-State should be held immediately after the first audition. In this second audition, each student must perform the full etudes. If the first

audition was comprised entirely of students who wish to be considered for All-State, only one audition is necessary.

7. Each student will be assigned a random audition ID generated by the tabulation software.
8. If possible, all students shall be seated in the tryout room simultaneously.
9. Every effort should be made to insure a judge does not have visual contact with a student. Screens are required. Anonymity is vital.
10. All students should play from one location in the room (exception: drum set, but in the same proximity.)
11. The judges must hear each student play each etude in its entirety. This will be done in four rounds.
12. The contestants will perform in the following order:
 - a. Round 1: top to bottom
 - b. Round 2: 1/3 down to the bottom
 - c. Round 3: 2/3 down to the bottom
 - d. Round 4: top to bottom
13. Prior to each round and after each fifth person plays, all students shall warm-up simultaneously for 20-30 seconds. There will be no restrictions on what the students can play during the group warm-up. However, disruptive activity could be subject to disciplinary action
14. Prior to each excerpt, if a student so desires to warm-up, the student may only play the starting note of the excerpt for no longer than 5 seconds. Drummers will play a combination of tom/snare/and cymbal rolls. After each fifth person plays, all students shall warm-up simultaneously for 20-30 seconds. There will be no restrictions on what the students can play during the group warm-up. However, disruptive activity could be subject to disciplinary action.
15. Students are permitted to use a non-audible metronome that is only a single purpose device.
16. Said metronome may only be used prior to the performance by the auditioning student. The student may not use the metronome during the performance.
17. Metronome markings should be closely adhered to as to maintain the intent of the music.
18. More consideration should be given to the student who conveys the musical intent of the recommended metronome markings. Judges should score a student who chooses to perform outside the recommended tempo based on the student's ability to preserve the musical integrity of the selection.
19. No electronic devices may be used or accessed by a student participant until the auditions for the student's section have been concluded. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in student disqualification.
20. The list of non-allowable electronic devices includes, but is not limited to, phones, electronic games, computers, cameras (within an audition room), and playback systems.

TABULATION AND CERTIFICATION

1. By use of the TMEA audition program, the contest chair shall be responsible for tabulating, checking, posting and reporting results. If the Region and All-State level auditions are being held simultaneously, the contest chair must distinguish those students who entered for All-State from those who entered for Region only. Note: It is possible for a student who was not selected for the Region Jazz ensemble to record for state. For example, assume player X auditioned on tenor sax and ranked 4th. Tenor Saxes 1- 3 chose not to audition for All-State. Player X is certified to record. .
2. All rankings and ties must be handled in accordance with the procedure for tie breaking as printed in the All-State Band Audition Procedures and Guidelines.
3. All posting shall reflect the ranking of the entire section and shall be posted with the following statement: ***"Tabulated audition results shall be available for inspection by directors for one hour following the conclusion of the entire audition. At the end of this period the results are subject to the TMEA appeals process."***
4. The contest chair must certify the total number of students allowed per instrument provided the number of contestants meets or exceeds the demand. If the number of contestants is less than the demand, those contestants shall be certified. No chair or judging panel shall have the authority to eliminate a student if a Region or All-State spot is available.
5. Each Region is allowed to certify a maximum of the following instrumentation to the Area level:

2 alto saxophones	2 tenor saxophones
1 baritone saxophone	5 trumpets
3 tenor trombones	2 bass trombones
1 guitar 1 bass	1 piano 2 drum set
6. Students shall record only one take of each etude (including improvisation) for the Area Jazz Ensemble Recorded Auditions. **Recording multiple takes is prohibited.**
7. An Area audition fee of **\$7.00 per student** will be billed to each Region Chair. Payment must be sent to the **TMEA Headquarters** in Austin. A student is not certified to Area until this fee has been paid.
8. The student should be prepared to pay a **\$20.00 All-State fee** by mail after the Area auditions if they should be certified to All-State.

ALL-STATE RECORDED AUDITION PROCEDURES

1. The All-State Jazz Ensemble recorded auditions shall be overseen by the TMEA State Band Chair or his/her designee.
2. The TMEA State Band Chair or his designee shall be responsible for assembling five-person panels for each of the sections. It is advisable for one panel to hear the piano, bass, and guitar auditions.

3. All adjudicators for the All-State Auditions must be current TMEA members.
 - a. **The TMEA Headquarters will generate payment to all Area level contest personnel to be paid.**
 - b. **Any audition personnel to be paid, regardless of amount, must be issued a contract for services to ensure payment from the TMEA Headquarters.**
4. The All-State Jazz Ensemble recorded auditions will use all procedures as mandated for the Region level auditions.
5. All results will be reported to the TMEA Band Division Vice-President immediately after the completion of the audition.

RECORDING GUIDELINES

1. Recordings shall be submitted online with each etude recorded as a separate track. Additionally, for the drum auditions, each of the drum styles are to be recorded as a separate track.
2. Recordings should be "dry" and absent of any effects (reverb, etc.)
3. Each track must be in the following audio file format:
 - a. MP3, Stereo, 44,100 Sample Rate, 16 Bit Depth, 256 Bit Rate (kps)
 - b. The system will only accept MP3 file format.
 - c. The tracks must be named as designated by the audition tabulation system "Student Track Sheets".
 - d. Each track will also be saved to a TMEA provided **Drop Box** for backup purposes.
4. It is **required** the Region chair or their designee(s) **along with the student** listen to the audio tracks immediately as the tracks are uploaded. This could be done in a separate room from the recording room. It is not necessary to listen to the entire track. This will allow the recording engineer to know if a back-up recording will need to be used and can be duplicated before they leave the building.
 - a. Each track will also be saved to a TMEA provided **Drop Box** for backup purposes.

If you have further questions call Frank Coachman at 1-888-318-8632 x102.