

## Jazz Auditions

### INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

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**Please note:**

**We regret that it is not possible for Audition panel members to give any individual feedback on matters relating to your audition. The decision of the Audition Panel is final, and should a candidate not be accepted, no further correspondence will be entered into.**

*This document contains a lot of information regarding the audition process. Please ensure that you read through the entire document.*

Jazz auditions will take place in two stages:

#### 1. Screening Video Recording

All jazz applicants to submit video recording, see below for detailed requirements for each instrument.

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=drive_link)

#### 2. Live Audition, Interview & Theory Test

Should your recording demonstrate suitable potential, you will then be *invited to attend* an audition in person at the SA College of Music on one of our official audition dates: You will only attend ONE of these dates. Please note that the in person audition comprises of a number of activities that you will be required to participate in should you be asked to attend the second round of auditions, including a theory test. The audition dates are

- SATURDAY 01 AUGUST 2026
- SATURDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2026

**NB- in order to be considered for the second round of in person auditions, video auditions must be submitted by no later than 26 June for the August audition, and 22 August for the September audition. No late applications will be considered.**

See below for the specific requirements for each instrument.

#### **Theory test:**

All applicants selected for live audition must complete a theory assessment test. Applicants will complete the assessment on their audition day.

Ensure your video reflects your current abilities: if the recording quality is poor, or if falsifying is suspected, you either may not be accepted or a subsequent live audition might be required.

## SCREENING RECORDING GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

All jazz applicants are required to submit a good-quality **video** recording via the google form, including a personal statement.

### PERSONAL STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS

Please write a brief statement (maximum 500 words) telling us about yourself and your vision of your future contribution to the development of music in South African Music

Your writing should tell us who you are, why you want to pursue this qualification, and why you are well suited to it. Focus on personal experiences (and experiences with music) that are relevant to your personal and academic growth, and how these have uniquely shaped your outlook on the world. How have the insights you have acquired on your journey informed your vision of what you can contribute positively to the field?

Write honestly and use descriptive language to create a vivid picture of your journey that convinces us of your authentic interest in this academic programme and field.

**CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE UPLOAD FORM:** <https://forms.gle/U7LV8e1FiUXg3LF67>

Recordings need to be in video format compatible with QuickTime software, such as: avi, mov, dv stream, mpeg2, mpeg4, QuickTime movie.

- Each piece must be performed in a single, unedited take. No reverb, or effects added please.
- Each piece should be submitted as a separate file and clearly labelled with the applicant's full name and title of song.
- Technical exercises, scales and arpeggios (where applicable) should be recorded as a single video.
- It is not necessary to submit a professionally produced recording, but the sound quality should be very clear.
- A cellphone recording is acceptable, as long as it is possible to hear the applicant's voice or instrument very clearly.
- Accompaniment can be live (full rhythm section, or piano, or guitar) OR a backing track.

## **Audition Requirements Per Instrument**

Click on your instrument to find the screening and live audition requirements specified for that instrument:

[Jazz Saxophone Jazz](#)

[Guitar](#)

[Bass Guitar and Double Bass Jazz](#)

[Piano](#)

[Drumset](#)

[Jazz Voice](#)

[Jazz Brass](#)

[Recommended Jazz Repertoire Lists for Instruments & Vocals](#)

## JAZZ SAXOPHONE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Scales & Arpeggios
2. Jazz Etude
3. Jazz Tunes with Improvisation (*or an extra etude, or a transcription*)

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

### Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise - it is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

When recording on a phone or similar device, play the track on your computer (or tablet etc.) and place the phone between yourself and the computer to get a reasonable balance. This may take a little experimenting.

Avoid pointing your saxophone directly at the phone mic as it will probably distort. Please do not try to play a track *and* record simultaneously on the same device - this does not work.

### 1 Scales

Please record yourself performing the following four (4) scales followed by their arpeggios **from memory**. Play them in this order (no need to announce the scales, just play). Play all scales & arpeggios in **one single** video recording.

You may play these at a moderate tempo (assuming these are quavers - crotchet beat at minimum 85bpm). Perform all scales slurred, aiming for consistency in time, sound & technique.

**D Major** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**F Major** - two octaves or to the 12th, followed by the arpeggio

**E Harmonic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**D Melodic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

### 2 Jazz Etude

Please select and perform **one (1)** etude from the following with the relevant back track: Bob

Mintzer - **15 Easy Jazz Blues Funk Etudes** for Bb or Eb Instruments  
Choose between **Blues 1** or **Swingin'**

Jim Snidero - **Jazz Conception** for Bb or Eb Instruments Choose  
between **Amen** or **A Doll**

For these Play-Along Etudes, you will need to pan the stereo or mute one channel (Snidero) or use the track *without* the saxophone demonstration when recording (Mintzer tracks entitled "Backgrounds").

### 3 Jazz Tunes & Improvisation

For the Jazz Improvisation component of the recording, please select **two (2)** pieces from the recommended jazz tunes list.

Perform the melody, followed by two choruses of improvisation

#### *SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE INITIAL RECORDING*

Improvisation is not essential for the screening audition, but it will definitely count in your favour if you are proficient. If you would rather not improvise over the suggested tunes below, please select and prepare an **extra** jazz etude from above, **or** submit a **transcription work** (see below\*).

**\*Alternatively**, the performance of a transcribed solo from a recording by a *Jazz Master* is acceptable (eg. Parker, Stitt, Rollins, Gordon etc). This needs to be performed and recorded along with the original audio track.

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on- campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## JAZZ GUITAR AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Technical: Scales & Arpeggios
2. Prescribed piece: Now's The Time
3. Jazz Tunes with Improvisation (*or an extra etude, or a transcription*)

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise - it is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

### 1 Technical: Scales & Arpeggios

**D Major** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**F Major** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**E Harmonic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**D Melodic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

### 2 Prescribed Piece: Now's The Time

- Play the melody
- Play one chorus of just chordal comping
- Play one chorus of improvised solo\*

### 3 Jazz Tunes with Improvisation

Select two tunes from the recommended tunes list. For each tune:

- Play the melody
- Play one chorus of just chordal comping
- Play at one chorus of improvised solo\*

**\*Improvisation is not essential for the screening audition, but it will definitely count in your favour if you are proficient.**

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on- campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## BASS GUITAR/JAZZ DOUBLE BASS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Technical: Scales & Arpeggios, Chord shapes
2. Prescribed piece: Now's The Time
3. Jazz Tunes with Improvisation (*or an extra etude, or a transcription*)

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

### Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise - it is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

### 1 Technical: Scales & Arpeggios

**D Major** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**F Major** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**E Harmonic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

**D Melodic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the arpeggio

### 2 Prescribed Piece: Now's The Time

- Play the melody
- Play one chorus of just walking bass
- Play one chorus of improvised solo\*

### 3 Jazz Tunes with Improvisation

Select two tunes from the recommended tunes list. For each tune:

- Play the melody
- Play one chorus of just bass line (walking bass, or latin/funk bass line where applicable)
- Play at one chorus of improvised solo\*

**\*Improvisation is not essential for the screening audition, but it will definitely count in your favour if you are proficient.**

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on-campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## JAZZ PIANO AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Technical: Scales & Arpeggios
2. Prescribed piece: Time After Time
3. Jazz Tunes with Improvisation (*or an extra etude, or a transcription*)

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

### Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise - it is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

### 1 Technical: Scales & Arpeggios

**D Major** - two octaves, followed by the D Major arpeggio

**Ab Major** - two octaves, followed by the Ab Major arpeggio

**E Harmonic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the E minor arpeggio

**C Melodic Minor** - two octaves, followed by the C minor arpeggio

### 2 Prescribed Piece: Time After Time

- Play the melody, with left hand comping.
- Play one chorus of just chordal comping
- Play one chorus of improvised solo\*

### 3 Jazz Tunes with Improvisation

Select two tunes from the recommended tunes list. For each tune:

- Play the melody, with chordal accompaniment in left hand, or both hands
- Play one chorus of just chordal comping
- Play at least one chorus of improvised solo\*

**\*Improvisation is not essential for the screening audition, but it will definitely count in your favour if you are proficient.**

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on-campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## JAZZ DRUMSET AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

#### Recording instructions:

- Please keep your videos concise, edit out long gaps, no chatting.
- Ensure your video reflects your current abilities: if the recording quality is poor, or if falsifying is suspected, you either may not be accepted, or will have to submit new video recordings.

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

It is probably best to record separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

### 1 Technical exercises

Play and record two of the following:

16-Bar Samba Groove

16-Bar Bossa Groove

16-Bar Afro 6/8 Groove

16-Bar Swing Groove

Name your two choices by naming the file accordingly.

### 2 Prepared pieces

**Two** prepared pieces from Trinity/ Royal schools/ Rock school syllabus, at least at Grade 5/6 level. These pieces should demonstrate reading and technical level on a variety of drumming styles. These can be played solo, with accompaniment, or with recorded backing.

### 3 Prescribed Piece

Prepare the following pieces and play with the backtracks provided. Now's  
the Time  
Song For My Father

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on- campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## JAZZ VOICE AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

The Jazz Voice audition process will be conducted in three stages:

**1. Pre-screening recording submission and questionnaire.**

After review of the application, supporting documents, and pre-screening recording, selected applicants will be invited for a live audition at the SA College of Music on one of our official audition dates:

**2. Invitation to a live audition.**

Live auditions will be held on selected dates.

At the end of the initial audition round, selected applicants will be invited to attend a vocal workshop. The workshop will be held on the same day as the live auditions, so applicants are requested to please wait for the selection results after their live audition.

All live auditions are recorded.

**3. Selection workshops.**

Selected applicants may be asked to work with Jazz Voice staff in a Workshop/Masterclass setting, to work on their songs/performances. The Workshop will be recorded.

Final selection will be made by the Jazz Voice panel based on recorded audition, live audition, workshop and supporting documents.

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Technical Exercises
2. Jazz Tunes with or without Improvisation (*or a vocalese, or a transcription*)
3. Jazz Voice Questionnaire

#### Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise, edit out long gaps, no chatting.

It is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

#### 1 Technical:

Learn and sing the following technical exercises, using the tracks provided.

On the tracks that have a vocal demonstration, you may sing along with the vocalist on the recording.

Start and end wherever it is comfortable in your vocal range. (you do not have to sing the entire exercise if it moves into a higher than comfortable range for you).

1. A Little Chromatic Exercise
2. Major 7th Arpeggio

## 2 Jazz Tunes with/without Improvisation

Select **two** tunes from the recommended tunes list. Perform each tune in the appropriate jazz style.

You may include an improvised (scat) solo if you wish.\*

**\*Improvisation (scat singing) is not required, but is encouraged if the candidate is able to do so**

## 3 Jazz Voice Questionnaire

All jazz voice applicants must complete the Jazz Voice Questionnaire, and submit the complete questionnaire with their audition recordings. Please note that if you do not submit the questionnaire, your audition will be considered incomplete.

### *Considerations for Jazz Voice Applicants*

The demand for places in the Jazz Voice Section at SACM is extremely high. We only accept a maximum of 5 new Jazz Voice students per year.

We can therefore afford to select only the very best applicants. Those 5 very best will combine musical talent and ability, with an aptitude and leaning towards jazz, with preferably some experience in the jazz style.

If your audition is not successful, you can always consider improving on your skills with some private lessons and reapplying the following year.

### **What we look for in Jazz Singing applicants:**

*Vocalists should be able to:*

- Show evidence of sound vocal technique
- Show some experience in the jazz style
- Preferably, read music at an intermediate level.
- Preferably, identify intervals aurally, and cope with basic music theory e.g. identify major and minor triads, rhythmic groupings

### **Other factors:**

**Vocal technique** - a healthy sounding voice, with good intonation. Ability to sing accurately the chromatic parts present in many jazz melodies.

*Note: If an applicant has great jazz style and rhythm, but has a damaged or unhealthy voice, they cannot be accepted. The demands of the Jazz programme on the voice are rigorous, and although vocal technique can be taught and improved, a damaged or potentially damaged voice should rather be addressed with an excellent vocal coach BEFORE commencing the Jazz Vocal Studies programme.*

**Rhythm** – the most crucial thing really, the rest can largely be taught.

Does the candidate show an innate sense of rhythm? Are they able to feel the swing?

Rhythmic feeling in jazz is an intangible thing, but if it's not present, the person will never grasp the intricacies and subtleties of jazz phrasing and improvisation.

## JAZZ BRASS AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

### SCREENING VIDEO RECORDING:

There are **three** sections to this audition:

1. Scales & Arpeggios
2. Classical Work
3. Etude
4. Jazz Tunes with Improvisation (*or an extra etude, or a transcription*)

Any required sheet music and backtracks can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU\\_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DVteWQ9NwrkAU_ilcyQ1cZ9vVHGd4efs?usp=sharing)

### Recording instructions:

Please keep your videos concise - it is probably best to record three separate videos based on the above-mentioned categories.

When recording with a backing track on a phone or similar device, play the track on your computer (or tablet etc) and place the phone between yourself and the computer to get a reasonable balance. This may take a little experimenting.

Avoid pointing your instrument directly at the phone mic as it will probably distort. Please do not try to play a track *and* record simultaneously on the same device - this does not work.

### 1 Scales

Please record yourself performing the following four (4) scales followed by their arpeggios **from memory**.

Play them in this order (no need to announce the scales, just play). Play all scales & arpeggios in **one single** video recording.

Play at moderate tempo. Aim for fluidity and confidence.

**2 major scales**, followed by the arpeggio, one octave

**1 major scale**, followed by the arpeggio, two octaves

**1 jazz scale** with arpeggio (e.g. blues, dorian or pentatonic), one octave

### 2 Etude

Please select and perform **one (1)** etude or study from a method book (half to full page)

### 3 Jazz Tunes & Improvisation

For the Jazz Improvisation component of the recording, please select **two (2)** pieces from the following list:

Blue Bossa Blues

for Alice Doxy

Footprints Now's

the Time

Song for my Father Summertime

Perform the melody, followed by two choruses of improvisation.

Performance of a transcribed solo from a recording by a Jazz Master is acceptable. Performance of written jazz etudes by established composers also acceptable.

Based on the screening recording, the panel will invite selected applicants to a live audition, on-campus at the SA College of Music, UCT.

## RECOMMENDED JAZZ STANDARDS REPERTOIRE LIST

### ALL INSTRUMENTS

The Jamey Aebersold play-along volumes are a good resource for these, as they contain the written music and corresponding backing tracks for practice. Sheet music can also be found in Jazz Real Books and Fake Books. Back tracks can also be found on YouTube and sites such as <https://www.learnjazzstandards.com/>

Some of these are included in the attached *Jazz Tunes for Improv.* folder as PDF's and back tracks (Play-Along).

**Autumn Leaves** Vol. 44, 54, 67, 20

**Blue Bossa** (no Aebersold) - *Three choruses of improv.*

**Footprints** Vol. 33, 54

**Take the "A" Train** Vol. 12, 65, 66

**All the Things You Are** Vol. 43, 68, 55, 16, 36 **Softly As**

**In A Morning Sunrise** Vol. 40, 85 **Song for My Father**

Vol. 17, 54, 85

**There Will Never Be Another You** (no Aebersold)

**Solar** Vol. 7 - *Three choruses of improv.*

**Tenor Madness** Vol. 8 (or any Bb Blues track at a moderate tempo) - *Three choruses of improv.*

**Now's the Time, Billie's Bounce or Au Privave** - F Blues - *Three choruses of improv.*

### VOCALS

#### Swing:

A Foggy Day Ain't

Misbehavin All Of

Me Autumn

Leaves

Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man Cry

Me A River

Days Of Wine And Roses

Do Nothing Till You Hear From Me Don't

Get Around Much Anymore Georgia

Have You Met Miss Jones Honeysuckle

Rose

I Thought About You

I've Got The World on A String In a

Mellow Tone

Like Someone In Love Lullaby

Of Birdland

On The Sunny Side Of The Street Softly

As In A Morning Sunrise Summertime

There Is No Greater love

They Can't Take That Away From Me

#### Bossa novas:

A Day in the Life of a Fool

Agua De Beber The

Gentle Rain

The Girl From Ipanema One

Note Samba

Quiet Nights of Quiet Stars The

Shadow Of Your Smile

#### Jazz ballads:

As Time Goes By

Black Coffee

I Fall In Love Too Easily Misty

Moon River

My Funny Valentine Smoke

Gets In Your Eyes Stormy

Weather

That's All

What A Difference A Day Made When I

Fall In Love

#### South African Jazz:

Lakutshon'ilanga

Ntyilo Ntyilo Seliyana

A Cry, A Smile, A Dance

Yakhal'inkomo