

Audition Guidelines

In order to be placed in a Jazz Combo (including the Dakota Combo), students are invited to audition. Auditions will be held on September 29, from 12:00-4:00 PM at MacPhail Minneapolis. This is the chance for you to display your current level of musicianship and potential to succeed in our unique learning environment. This also gives us the chance to place you in a combo with your peers, in which you can grow.

The MacPhail jazz program embraces and values all musical styles, so you should perform a piece that you are comfortable with and that displays your strengths as a musician. Select a piece that highlights what you feel represents your best abilities rather than a piece you think the audition team wants to hear.

*NOTE... The following instructions serve as a guide to what an audition might entail. Be aware that is recommended to prepare as much of the following for your particular instrument but is **NOT MANDATORY**.*

Prepared Piece

All students should prepare of two contrasting pieces of their choice for their audition.

Your prepared piece should be:

- performed live (it cannot be pre-recorded)
- three–five minutes in length
- performed on your primary instrument (the instrument you select when you submit the application form).
- ***If you'd like to perform with a backing track, please have a device that can easily be plugged into an 1/8-inch stereo plug.***

Some examples that may help with your selection include the following:

- A tune from a well-known artist or band
- A standard or jazz tune with your own improvisation
- A composition from the instrumental/voice repertoire or a movement, sonata, concerto, or etude
- A transcription of a well-known artist's solo

Percussion

In addition to a prepared piece, you will be asked to play examples from the following list of grooves:

- Swing
- Jazz Shuffle
- Funk
- Rock
- Bossa Nova
- Afro-Cuban 12/8

Bass

In addition to a prepared piece, you will be asked to bass lines in various styles of standard chord progressions.

- Swing
- Jazz Shuffle
- Funk
- Rock
- Bossa Nova
- Afro-Cuban 12/8

Chordal Instruments (Piano, Guitar, Vibes)

In addition to a prepared piece, you will be asked to 'comp' in various styles of standard chord progressions.

- Swing
- Jazz Shuffle
- Funk
- Rock
- Bossa Nova
- Afro-Cuban 12/8

Melodic Instruments (Woodwinds, Brass, Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello))

In addition to a prepared piece, you will also be asked to demonstrate your technical facility via scales, arpeggios, and various exercises.

Vocal

In addition to a prepared piece, you will also be asked to demonstrate your ability to read music, match pitch, and other various exercises.