

# JMU Jazz Ensemble/Jazz Band

## Auditions Fall, 2025

Tuesday, August 19, 2025 10:00 am - 6:00 pm  
Music Building Room B12 (basement  
floor practice room area)

**Audition Sign-up** via this link: <https://jmu.jury-system.com>

- User accounts are created automatically by clicking the Login link in the main menu and logging in through the JMU portal and Duo two-factor authentication system. Enter your JMU credentials.
- Once logged in, proceed to the **Booking** dropdown list; select **Book a Time**.
- Click on **Jazz Auditions**.
- Follow the listed instructions to reserve an audition time.
- If you need to change your audition time, please follow the instructions accordingly. You will receive a cancellation code when you register, just in case.

### Audition Procedures:

1. **Do not register for either ensemble until rosters have been determined and posted.**
2. Download the appropriate audition excerpt (hard copies will be available at the audition).
3. **Auditions will also include optional improvisation on a blues** (a concert Bb or F backing track will be provided), including optional scat singing for vocalists.
4. **WRITTEN AUDITION EXCERPT, Instrumentalists: *Little Willie Leaps***
  - Use the original Charlie Parker/Miles Davis recording for stylistic guidance (a few embellishments on this recording vary slightly from the audition excerpts). The recording at this link includes a false start, but the full head can be heard beginning at 0:46.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q02HyN-wfeg&list=RDq02HyN-wfeg&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q02HyN-wfeg&list=RDq02HyN-wfeg&start_radio=1)
  - You can perform the excerpt at a slower tempo than the recording if you wish (stylistic accuracy is more important than a fast tempo).
  - Download and prepare the appropriate excerpt:
    - (Flutists prepare the Piano/Guitar excerpt: see below)
    - Bb instruments (tenor sax, clarinet, and trumpet)
    - Eb instruments (alto sax, bari sax)
    - Tenor trombone/double bass (bass: play the written melody, then walk one chorus on the chord changes)
    - Bass trombone/tuba
    - Piano/guitar (this excerpt is in Bb; the reference recording is in F)
      - Piano: play the head in octaves as written, then comp (letter D to H) as you would for a soloist in a big band
      - Guitar: play the head from the treble clef staff (not in octaves), then comp (letter D to H) as for a soloist in a big band

- Flutists: play the treble clef melody as written (or 8va if you prefer)
- Drumset/vibes
  - drumset: using brushes or sticks, play time, incorporating appropriate hits from the melody into your time keeping. Do not play the literal melodic figures. (ie: play as if you are reading from a combo lead sheet)
  - vibes: play the written melody (treble clef)
  - (you do not need to audition on both drum set and vibes unless you wish to play both in a big band)
  - Drum Set: in addition to the written excerpt, you will be asked to demonstrate medium swing, uptempo swing, jazz waltz, samba, bossa nova, and Afro-Cuban styles, including trading 4's in each.
  - Drum Set: when registering online for your audition time, choose the "Drummer—12 minute slot" option
- Everyone: you may audition on more than one instrument (or instrument and voice) if you wish. Sign up for one slot for each audition (can be back-to-back or not, whichever you prefer).

## 5. WRITTEN AUDITION EXCERPT, Vocalists:

*Like Someone in Love* melody/lyric with iReal Pro backing track; will be provided at audition.

The leadsheet provided is in the key of Eb. You may transpose the excerpt to any key you wish; we will provide the appropriate iReal Pro backing track at the audition (create your own iReal Pro backing track for audition preparation).

Reference recordings and keys:

Chet Baker (Bb):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WWRMqC1ONM&list=RD6WWRMqC1ONM&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6WWRMqC1ONM&list=RD6WWRMqC1ONM&start_radio=1)

Sarah Vaughan (F):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_UCbpeKqaFA&list=RD\\_UCbpeKqaFA&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_UCbpeKqaFA&list=RD_UCbpeKqaFA&start_radio=1)

Ella Fitzgerald (G):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICOWB8X3H3M&list=RDICOWB8X3H3M&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICOWB8X3H3M&list=RDICOWB8X3H3M&start_radio=1)

Blossom Dearie (E):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FqfOpXxvog&list=RD7FqfOpXxvog&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FqfOpXxvog&list=RD7FqfOpXxvog&start_radio=1)

Diana Krall (Eb):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MjEcviI5ePQ&list=RD1MjEcviI5ePQ&start\\_radio=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MjEcviI5ePQ&list=RD1MjEcviI5ePQ&start_radio=1)