

JMU Jazz Chamber Ens. (combo) Auditions, Fall 2025

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Music Building room 108

7:00-8:00 pm

**Audition piece: *Summertime* (key of concert D minor)
See below for more info on the audition process.**

All students interested in playing in a fall semester combo must audition (in person)

Bass and guitar amps will be provided (bring a cable); a vocal amp and mic will be provided

Combos perform at Clementine Thursday nights between 7:00-9:00 pm. You must be available, in general, at this time (occasional conflicts with performances by other JMU ensembles are okay). If you have an ongoing Thursday evening schedule conflict, you cannot participate in combos.

Do not register for the class (MUAP 355) until combo rosters have been posted. Everyone placed into a combo must be registered.

Contact Prof. Dotas (chuckdotas@mac.com) with questions.

Audition Registration

YOU MUST REGISTER BEFORE the auditions begin, using this link:

<https://forms.gle/ACmVUC6aUpmxR7wMA>

You will need access to your class schedule when you fill out the registration form. You will be indicating the meeting time and name of each class you have during the week (M-F). This information will be used to determine each combo's faculty coaching day/time.

Audition Process

THURSDAY 8/21/25, room 108 of the Music Building, 7:00-8:00 pm

1. Sign up for the audition prior to the 7:00 pm start (you will need to enter your class schedule information on the google registration form).
2. Have your instrument assembled and ready to play by 7:00 pm.
 - a. Guitar/bass amps provided; bring your own cable.
 - b. Drum set provided (bring sticks; use the cymbals already set up).
 - c. Vocal amp and mic provided (bring your own mic if you prefer).
3. Students will be called up from the audience in random small groups (complete combos). **The group will play the head for, and improvise/comp on, *Summertime* (key of concert D minor) by George Gershwin.** There are many recordings easily accessible on Youtube; auditionees should learn the head and chord progression. No sheet music/phones will be allowed for the audition.
4. Link to *Summertime* backing track:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/wh2652vqe85y1afgjb1a/Summertime.mp3?rlkey=mf1xdng5zy2qnawjy3im16j8i&st=mydy7nu6&dl=0>
5. If you need a leadsheet to learn the tune, see the link on the Jazz Chamber Ensemble Audition page on the School of Music auditions webpage.
6. If the audition ensemble includes a vocalist, that person will sing the lyrics the first time through the tune; all instrumentalists will play the head together the second time through (vocalists will scat sing the melody along with the horns). Each student will perform two choruses of improvisation (drummers: two choruses of trading 4's with the horns).
7. JMU Jazz Faculty will assign students to combos; results will be communicated via email by Monday, August 25. **AT THAT TIME, STUDENTS WHO HAVE AUDITIONED INTO A COMBO SHOULD REGISTER FOR THE CLASS (MUAP 355, register for your faculty coach's section #).**