

JMU JAZZ AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS- PIANO

FALL 2020

You will find two audition excerpts on the “Piano” link:

#1: “Colorado All-State Jazz Etude”

#2: a backing track for *Now's the Time* (a blues in F)

REQUIRED AUDITION MATERIALS:

- **If you are auditioning for a big band ONLY:** video record both #1 and #2 (combined into one video submission; you may pause the video recorder in between the written excerpts and the backing track improvisation if you wish).
- **If you are auditioning ONLY for one of the Jazz Chamber Ensembles (combos):** video record and submit #2 only.
- **If you are auditioning for BOTH a combo and a big band:** video record both #1 and #2 (combined into one video submission; you may pause the video recorder in between the written excerpts and the backing track improvisation if you wish).

You must register for this audition using the google form linked in the “Jazz Audition Information” block; use that form to send a private Youtube video link to your completed audition recording (see the registration form for instructions on creating and submitting a private Youtube video link).

Your registration form and completed audition video must be submitted by 5:00 pm Monday, August 17th.

If using a keyboard to record the audition, please use a Fender Rhodes or similar setting if possible.

AUDITION INFORMATION: Colorado All-State Jazz Etude

1. Play the first etude (“Relaxed Samba”) as written. Comp for the second etude (“Moderate Swing”) using two-hand voicings. You do not need to supply a bass note unless you feel it is called for in the style of your comping.
2. As far as I know, no recording exists of these two etudes. Use your best sense of samba and swing comping styles.
3. Use the tempo marking indicated for each etude if possible. If you need to take the tempo down a bit, it’s always better to record at a tempo that allows you to play with a convincing sense of swing/groove, rather than *almost* making it at the written tempo. Do not play along with a metronome or any type of backing track (ie: Drum Genius) for this recording.

AUDITION INFORMATION: *Now's the Time* (blues in F)

Now's the Time - choose one of the following backing tracks. You may choose either the faster or slower version—the most important criterion is the quality of your time feel, not how fast you are going!

If you know the head, play it first (comping for yourself in the left hand as you see fit), then comp (two hand voicings) for two choruses, followed by two choruses of soloing (comping for yourself the left hand as you see fit).

If you don't know the head, proceed immediately to the two choruses of comping, followed by two choruses of soloing.

- *Faster version:*
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IvmNbimwgLc&list=PLLERPLaznDt72mSHhfPZgv80Wg4wkbz6>
- *Slower version:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLCEOyLMvfo>

Please make a test recording to make sure that the balance between your playing and the backing track is good on the recording that you submit (think 60% you and 40% backing track). It's highly advisable to connect a Bluetooth or other external speaker with your laptop/desktop/phone.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING:

Charlie Parker, original quintet recording with a young Miles Davis:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuVWNv2kEeE>

Charlie Parker, quartet recording, faster tempo: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP29Qn00_Nw

Clifford Brown, trumpet; with Lou Donaldson, alto saxophone; Horace Silver, piano; Curly Russell, bass; Art Blakey, piano <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEnCya11yjc>

J.J. Johnson, trombone; Nat Adderley, cornet; Tommy Flanagan, piano; Tommy Potter, bass; Albert "Tootie" Heath, drums: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uQPzOLrkiYU>

Years of:
2014-2015
2017-2018
2020-2021

COLORADO ALL-STATE JAZZ ETUDES

PIANO - SET A

COMPOSED BY MIKE TOMARO

RELAXED SAMBA (♩=90)

The first system of musical notation for 'Relaxed Samba' consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and contains a series of chords and melodic fragments, including a half note chord with a sharp sign. The lower staff is in bass clef and contains a rhythmic bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The upper staff features more complex chordal textures and melodic lines. The lower staff maintains the rhythmic pattern with eighth and sixteenth notes.

The third system of musical notation concludes the 'Relaxed Samba' section. It features sustained chords in the upper staff and a final rhythmic phrase in the lower staff.

MODERATE SWING (♩=140)

The first system of musical notation for 'Moderate Swing' consists of two staves. The upper staff contains a series of chords: Amin⁹, Bø7, E7(b9), Amin⁷, Dmin⁹, and G7(#9). The lower staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. The upper staff contains a series of chords: Cmaj⁹, Amin⁹, Dmin⁹, G7(#9), Gmin¹¹, and C13(b9). The lower staff contains a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

(GO TO PAGE 2)

The image shows a handwritten musical score for piano, consisting of three staves. The first staff contains four measures of rests, with chords $FMA7^9$, $E7(\flat 9 \sharp 5)$, $E\flat 13(\sharp 11)$, and $D13$ written above. The second staff contains five measures of rests, with chords $G13$, $C13$, $B\flat MIN^9$, $E\flat 13$, and $G13$ written above. The third staff contains two measures of rests, followed by a melodic line in the first measure (with $C13$ above) and a final measure with a melodic line (with $B\flat 13(\sharp 11)$ above). The melodic lines are written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The first measure of the third staff has a double bar line at the end.