

## JMU JAZZ AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS- SAXOPHONES

FALL 2020

You will find two audition excerpts on the “saxophones” 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, non-improvising section part:** video record and submit #1 only
- **If you are auditioning for a big band ONLY: soloist and/or lead chair:** 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 17<sup>th</sup>.

### AUDITION INFORMATION: Colorado All-State Jazz Etude

1. The second etude is for bari saxes only (baris should also record the first etude). If you wish to submit the first etude on soprano, alto, or tenor, and the second etude on bari, that's fine, but certainly not required. Altos and tenors should record the first etude only (see #2 about soprano).
2. If possible, audition on the type of saxophone (alto, tenor, or bari) that you prefer to play (sop will be a doubling instrument for some students, but no student will play ONLY soprano in the big bands or combos, so please avoid recording the audition excerpts on soprano only). If you only have access to one saxophone for the audition, but prefer to play a different horn in the group, don't worry. You will indicate on the registration form which saxes you are able/willing to play.

3. As far as I know, no recording exists of these two etudes (I've only been able to find a recording of the 2019 etudes, which are not the same pieces). Use your best sense of big band style (the etude's notated articulations are stylistically accurate, but feel free to articulate the written phrases in whatever manner you feel is most idiomatic to the big band genre).
4. 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, then record two choruses of improvising (the rhythm section on the “faster version” backing track comp for two choruses of the head before moving into straight ahead solo comping; if using this backing track, feel free to play the head twice if that feels better to you).

If you don't know the head, record two choruses of improvisation immediately after the backing track counts you in.

*Faster version:*

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/i2ocz3soycx9wlv/Now%27s%20the%20Time%20Aebrsld%20play-along%20%281%29.mp3?dl=0>

*Slower version:* <https://www.dropbox.com/s/1oa56k8oaoiu4r8/F%20blues-slower%20%281%29.mp3?dl=0>

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=YuVWNv2kEkE>

Charlie Parker, quartet recording, faster tempo: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RP29Qn00\\_Nw](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

SAXES - SET A

COMPOSED BY MIKE TOMARO

MEDIUM SWING (♩=160)

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. Each staff contains a melodic line with various rhythmic values and accents. Above the notes, numerous chords are written in a handwritten style, including: Fmaj7, A♭7, D7, Gmin7, B♭7, E7, Amin7, C7, G7, Eb7, Emin7, A7, Dmin7, G7, Gmin7, C7, Fmaj7, A♭7, D7, Gmin7, B♭7, E7, Amin7, Gmin7, B♭min7, Eb7, Amin7, A♭7, D7, Gmin7, G♭maj7, Fmaj7, and a final chord. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as Medium Swing with a quarter note equal to 160 beats per minute.

(BARITONE SAXES ONLY ON PAGE 2)

FOR BARITONE SAX ONLY:

STRAIGHT 8THS (♩=120)

The musical score consists of three staves of music, all in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as 120 beats per minute. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a sharp sign, and a common time signature. The melody is composed of eighth notes, many of which are beamed together in pairs or groups of four. The second staff continues the melody with similar eighth-note patterns, including some notes with accents. The third staff concludes the piece with a final cadence, ending with a double bar line.