

JMU JAZZ AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS- VOCALISTS

FALL 2020

You must register for this audition using the google Registration 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).

You will indicate on the Registration Form whether you wish to audition for a big band only, a Jazz Chamber Ensemble (combo) only, or a big band AND a combo. The audition materials are identical for each scenario.

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

AUDITION INFORMATION

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.

Now's the Time - Record yourself singing *Now's the Time* with one of the following backing tracks (a faster version and a slower version) using the lyrics below.

If you like, you can then follow that with some wordless vocal improvisation (“scat-singing”) as the backing track continues.

Under “Suggesting Listening” you will find YouTube links to some vocal recordings and the original instrumental version by Charlie Parker of *Now's the Time*. Listen to them for ideas on how to go about interpreting the melody and, if you're up for it, improvising.

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/1oa56k8oaou4r8/F%20blues-slower%20%281%29.mp3?dl=0>

Now's the Time

Lyrics by Jon Hendricks:

You've heard it every way,
A dog'll have his day
But when it comes to wailin',
Dogs ain't got a thing to say
So they can do the waitin',
'Cause I ain't hesitatin'
The future's 'round the corner,
So for now I'm gonna play
Now's the time to wail,
Not later, but right now's the time.

If you wish, in addition to the *Now's the Time* audition material, you may also record yourself singing the melody of a jazz standard a cappella (unaccompanied) by a composer such as George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington, etc. If so, include that on the same video recording as the *Now's the Time* excerpts. Do not submit a separate video for the jazz standard.

RECOMMENDED LISTENING, *Now's the Time*:

Vi Redd, vocals and saxophone: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=51fuqGoXXYQ>

Lambert, Hendricks and Ross: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jt8ndVBslU> (recorded in the key of G)

Eddie Jefferson (using his own lyrics): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pORrMwj8gkI>

Charlie Parker (original recording): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuVWNv2kEkE>

Two unknown singers (using Eddie Jefferson's lyrics and then scatting):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nyG_sq-ISWw