

SVSU JAZZ ENSEMBLE AUDITIONS 2025-2026

SVSU offers jazz performance opportunities through the Jazz Ensemble (15-20 member big band), Jazz Combos (small groups of 5-8 members), and applied lessons in jazz improvisation. All jazz ensembles will explore a variety of jazz styles as well as improvisation. Any instrumentalists and vocalists are welcome to audition for jazz ensembles. Auditions are held before the fall semester, which will help the ensemble director plan appropriate repertoire for the group. Placement for all ensembles will depend on both the ability level of the students as well as instrumentation for the ensembles.

Ensembles for 2025-2026 include:

- Jazz Ensemble - meets Mondays & Wednesdays 10-11:50am
- Cardinal Combo - meets Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-6:20pm
- Valley Combo - meets Tuesdays & Thursdays 1-1:50pm

In-person auditions will be held on April 22nd & 24th between 6-8pm in Arbury 102. Sign-ups for times will be posted outside the music office. If you are unable to attend the in-person auditions, you may prepare a video audition, upload to YouTube as an unlisted video, and send the video link through the audition form below.

Complete the Jazz Audition Form at the link or QR code below:

<https://forms.gle/hjc5ije2Mv51fVeMA>



Please complete the form and audition by **Tuesday, July 1st, 2025.**

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Wind instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and others):

1. Play a chromatic scale over the entire range of your instrument, slurred, ascending and descending, at a smooth consistent tempo.
 - a. Brass players - please specify and demonstrate your highest comfortable range.
2. Improvise over a concert Bb Blues with accompaniment. You may use any accompaniment of your choice, including live musicians, software, or recordings (here is an example you could use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ae_tBkCqeQ). Play 3-4 choruses of improvisation. Playing a blues melody is optional. Please make sure both your instrument and the accompaniment are audible in the recording.
3. **OPTIONAL:** If you would like to demonstrate anything else, you may include another brief excerpt of your choice, which could include parts from written big band charts, jazz etudes, a jazz standard, or a transcription.

Piano, guitar & bass:

1. Play a chromatic scale two octaves, ascending and descending, at a smooth consistent tempo.
2. Improvise over a concert Bb Blues with accompaniment. You may use any accompaniment of your choice, including live musicians, software, or recordings (here is an example you could use: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ae_tBkCqeQ). Play 3-4 choruses of improvisation. Playing a blues melody is optional. Include one chorus of "comping" (piano and guitar - play chords, bass - walk a bass line). Please make sure both your instrument and the accompaniment are audible in the recording.
3. **OPTIONAL:** If you would like to demonstrate anything else, you may include another brief excerpt of your choice, which could include parts from written big band charts, jazz etudes, a jazz standard, or a transcription.

Drumset:

1. Demonstrate 16 bars of playing time in the following styles, with or without accompaniment:
 - a. Jazz ballad with brushes (60-80 bpm)
 - b. Medium swing (100-140 bpm)
 - c. Fast swing (180-240 bpm)
 - d. Bossa nova (100-140 bpm)
 - e. Funk (100-140 bpm)
2. Play 32 bars of "trading 4s" (4 measures of time alternating with 4 measures of solo) in a medium or fast swing style, with or without accompaniment.
3. **OPTIONAL:** If you would like to demonstrate anything else, you may include another brief excerpt of your choice, which could include parts from written big band charts, jazz etudes, a jazz standard, or a transcription.

Vocalists:

1. Prepare 2 contrasting songs in a jazz style, with accompaniment, that demonstrate your range and style. You may include improvisation as desired.

Please contact Dr. Colin Wood (cwood@svsu.edu) if you have any questions about jazz ensembles or the audition process.