

TJC Jazz Band Auditions

Wednesday, August 8th 2-5pm (Sophomore)

Thursday, August 9th 2-5pm (Freshmen)

If you have never played in jazz band before, PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID TO TRYOUT!

We have two full jazz ensembles, so there is room for almost everyone. Your jazz audition will consist of three parts: a short prepared piece, improvisation (optional), and a specific portion for your instrument.

Prepared piece:

Please prepare the '*Billie's Bounce*' excerpt provided. Here are a few helpful hints for working on this piece. When playing *Billie's Bounce*, you should *swing* the eighth notes, meaning you should treat the eighth notes like triplets...the upbeats are more important than the downbeats. Jazz differs from regular concert music in that the articulations are harder. Pay close attention to the 'dots' over the notes, and tongue stop each (yes... it's okay to tongue stop in jazz). Even if the 'dot' is attached to a tied over note, it is still short. There will be a demonstration track of *Billie's Bounce* posted on the TJC band website. Just choose the jazz ensemble link. There will also be a practice track as well, but you do not have to perform the tempo of the practice track if you don't want to, just perform the excerpt at the tempo that is comfortable for you. You only need the first twelve bars, and then it repeats itself. Just prepare the written portion of *Billie's Bounce*, don't worry about the improvisation that follows.

Improvisation (optional):

All you need to do is memorize the blues scale printed below the *Billie's Bounce* etude. Once you have it memorized, start making up rhythms using the scale. You want to swing stuff as you play it. **The more you do this, the easier it gets and the better you get at it.** Nobody does it great the first time. Just experiment and have fun! Use different articulations, don't be afraid to add rests, just use two notes or all of them. Again, this is not required, but try it first, before you decide not to do it. You might find that you like it!

The improvisation portion is OPTIONAL and not required. DON'T HESITATE TO ASK QUESTIONS ON HOW TO DO IT OR HOW TO START, IF YOU'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE. You can improvise as long or short as you want (usually you improvise for 12 measures, but even two measures is a start!). There will also be a practice track available on the TJC band website for the improvisation. It will repeat itself several times, but you only have to perform as long as you are comfortable.

Instrument Specifics:

Trombones/Trumpets/Saxophones: You will be asked to play a **CHROMATIC SCALE** from your lowest note to your highest note, so that we can assign parts based on your usable range.

Bass/Piano/Guitar: You will be asked to perform *Billie's Bounce* as written, and then **'comp' or 'walk' the chords once through.**

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the band hall at 903-510-3195 or e-mail Mrs. Mensch at hmen2@tjc.edu. You can also come by the band hall for help with the audition music. Just call ahead to schedule a time!