

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC  
OAKLAND SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS  
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

MIDDLE SCHOOL \_\_\_\_\_ 3

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## AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

Below are the audition criteria for acceptance into the Instrumental Music Program at Oakland School for the Arts. There will be a rubric on which we evaluate each category. When preparing for your audition, here are some guidelines and clarifications:

- You are required to **bring three copies of any prepared music materials** for the panel.
- Regardless of grade level, **all scales must be memorized**; it is strongly recommended but not required for prepared pieces to be memorized as well.
- Some requirements differ from grade to grade; **prepare all listed requirements for the grade you are applying for** and not the grade you are currently in.
- Dress appropriately for your audition.
- For many Jazz auditions, we have provided links to pre-recorded play-alongs; for the actual audition, we will provide playback.
- We understand that for many students, this is the first time they've had to audition into ensembles and/or classes. Prepare equally for each category under your respective instrument. We realize that students are stronger in some areas than others; that's ok.

### IMPORTANT:

We believe it is necessary for our students to appreciate and gain experience performing all types of music genres. While OSA can be very flexible to accommodate student interests, we initially require that **all Instrumental Music candidates choose a track to audition with: “jazz” or “classical”**. **If a student is interested in playing both styles, they must audition using the requirements for both and must indicate this intention at the beginning of their audition.**

# MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

## CLASSICAL MIDDLE SCHOOL [Woodwinds / Strings / Brass]

**Prepare two musical selections** of contrasting styles (6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>). We ask that the prepared selections extend no more than two minutes each. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

### Scales

(6<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Major scales up to 2 sharps and flats for your instrument (C, F, Bb, G, D), one octave only.
2. Natural minor scales up to 2 sharps and flats for your instrument (a, d, g, e, b), one octave only.

(7<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Major scales up to 3 sharps and flats for your instrument (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A), two octaves.
2. Natural minor scales up to 3 sharps and flats for your instrument (a, d, g, c, e, b, f#), two octaves.

(8<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Major scales up to 4 sharps and flats for your instrument (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A, E), two or three octaves.
2. Natural minor scales up to 4 sharps and flats for your instrument (a, d, g, c, f, e, b, #), two or three octaves.

**Sight Reading** - You will be asked to read a melody that you haven't seen before

## CLASSICAL MIDDLE SCHOOL [Piano]

**Prepare two musical selections** of contrasting styles [for example, from different periods (baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary, etc) Common examples: 2-part Bach invention + Chopin Nocturne (single movement) or Mozart Sonata + Debussy Prelude, etc.]. We ask that the prepared selections extend no more than two minutes each. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

**Major scales** up to 3 sharps and flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A), two octaves @ 90bpm - eighth notes

## CLASSICAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

### [Guitar]

**Prepare two musical selections** from the classical guitar repertoire. We ask that the prepared selections extend no more than two minutes each and should be memorized. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

**Technique** - Students must demonstrate the ability to play basic right hand arpeggio patterns. Students must prepare to demonstrate basic major and natural minor scale patterns.

**Sight Reading** - You will be asked to read a melody that you haven't seen before

## JAZZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### [Piano]

**Prepare one selection** from the compositions listed below. Please perform the melody, "comp" as if playing behind a soloist once through the form, improvise once through the form, return to the melody and end accordingly:

Blue Monk/Now's The Time/Blue Bossa/Autumn Leaves/Straight No Chaser/Sonny  
Moon For Two/Take the A Train/Little Sunflower

#### Scales

Major Scales - C,F,Bb,Eb,G,D,A. Play ascending and descending, two octaves @ 90bpm, eighth notes.

#### Sight Reading

You will be asked to sight read a jazz composition.

## JAZZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

### [Woodwinds / Brass / Violin]

#### 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Blue Monk

Play the melody once, then improvise over the form/chord changes using the provided play-along audio two times, and return with the melody once. The play-along can be found at [https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue\\_Monk.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue_Monk.mp3)

2. It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)

Play the melody only.

## **Scales**

1. Major scales - C, F, Bb, G, D.  
Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
2. Natural minor scales - A, D, E, G, B.  
Play ascending and descending, one octave only.

## **Sight Reading**

You will be asked to sight read a jazz composition in the proper key for your Instrument.

### **7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

#### **Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Straight No Chaser  
Play the melody once, then improvise over the form/chord changes using the provided play-along audio two times, and return with the melody once. The play-along can be found at [https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Straight\\_No\\_Chaser.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Straight_No_Chaser.mp3)
2. Take the A Train  
Play the melody only.

#### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Scales**

1. Major scales- C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
2. Natural minor scales - C, A, D, G, F, Bb. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.

#### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Scales**

1. Major scales- C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A, E. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
2. Dominant scales- C, G, D, F
3. Dorian minor scales (natural 6<sup>th</sup>)- C, A, D, G, F, E, B. Play ascending and descending, two octaves where possible.

## **Sight Reading**

You will be asked to sight read a jazz composition in the proper key for your Instrument.

# **JAZZ MIDDLE SCHOOL**

## **[Guitar]**

### **6<sup>th</sup> grade**

#### **Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Blue Monk  
Play the melody once, then the chord changes as if accompanying a horn player once through, then improvise over the chord changes using the provided play-along audio for two choruses, and return with the melody. The play-along can be found at [https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue\\_Monk.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue_Monk.mp3)

2. It Don't Mean A Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)  
Play the melody only.

### **Sight Reading**

1. You will be asked to read a jazz composition with chord symbols.
2. You will be asked to sight read a jazz melody.

### **Scales & Chords**

1. Major scales- C, F.  
Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
2. Natural minor scales- A, D.  
Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
3. Chords: A minor 7, D dominant 7, G Major 7, C Major 7

### **7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade**

#### **Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Straight No Chaser  
Play the melody once, then the chord changes as if accompanying a horn player once through, then improvise over the chord changes using the provided play-along audio for two choruses, and return with the melody. The play-along can be found at  
[https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Straight\\_No\\_Chaser.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Straight_No_Chaser.mp3)

2. Take the A Train  
Play the melody only.

### **Scales & Chords**

1. Major scales- C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab. Play ascending and descending, two octaves.
2. Natural minor scales- A, D. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
3. Chords: C Major 7, G Major 7, A minor 7, C minor 7, D7 (dominant), Bb7, Eb7.

## **JAZZ MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### **[Bass]**

### **6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

#### **Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Blue Monk  
Along with the provided play-along audio, play the melody once, play a walking bass line once through the form, then improvise two times through the form, and return with the melody. The play-along can be found at  
[https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue\\_Monk.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Blue_Monk.mp3)

2. Blue Bossa  
Play a Latin feel (Bossa Nova style) bass line.

**Sight Reading:**

1. Be prepared to read a jazz composition with chord symbols in order to play a simple bass line.
2. Be prepared to read a jazz melody.

**Scales**

1. Major Scales- G, D. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
2. Natural minor scales- A, G. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.

# JAZZ MIDDLE SCHOOL

## [Drums]

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade

**Play the following rhythmic styles:**

1. Medium swing
2. Latin feel of your choice

**Play the following pieces as if you're playing behind the melody:**

1. Blue Monk  
Play melody rhythm on the snare, 4 beats on the bass drum, and beats 2 & 4 on the high hat. Optional: take a 12 bar solo.
2. Four  
Use appropriate hits as if playing with a jazz ensemble during the melody.

**Sight-Reading**

1. Be prepared play the appropriate feel and tempo for a given jazz composition, and a short rhythmic etude.

# HIGH SCHOOL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

## CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

### [Woodwind / Strings / Brass]

**Prepare two musical selections** of contrasting styles (9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup>). We ask that the prepared selections extend no more than two minutes each. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

#### Scales

(9<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Major scales up to 3 sharps and flats for your instrument (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A), two octaves.
2. Natural minor scales up to 3 sharps and flats for your instrument (a, d, g, c, e, b, f#), two octaves.

(10<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. Major scales up to 4 sharps and flats for your instrument (C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, G, D, A, E), two or three octaves.
2. Natural minor scales up to 4 sharps and flats for your instrument (a, d, g, c, f, e, b, f#, C#), two or three octaves.

(11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

1. All Major scales, two octaves and three octaves instrument permitted.
2. All Natural minor scales, two octaves and three octaves instrument permitted.

**Sight-Reading** - You will be asked to read a melody that you haven't seen before

## CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

### [Piano]

**Prepare two musical selections** of contrasting styles [for example, from different periods (baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary, etc) Common examples: 2-part Bach invention + Chopin Nocturne (single movement) or Mozart Sonata + Debussy Prelude, etc.]. We ask that the prepared selections extend no more than two minutes each. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

**Major scales** up to 3 sharps and flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A), four octaves @ 90bpm - sixteenth notes

**Arpeggios** up to 3 sharps and flats (C, F, Bb, Eb, G, D, A), four octaves @ 120bpm - eighth notes

**Sight-Reading**- You will be asked to read a melody that you haven't seen before

# CLASSICAL HIGH SCHOOL

## [Guitar]

**Prepare two musical selections** from the classical guitar repertoire (for example works by Sor, Carcassi, Giuliani, Bach, Tarrega, Mertz, Aguado, Brouwer etc.). Pieces must be played from memory. Applicants should bring three copies of their prepared pieces for the judges.

**Technique** - Students must prepare to demonstrate major and natural minor scales in the predominant guitar keys (up to 4 sharps and 1 flat). Students must demonstrate the ability to play right hand arpeggio patterns.

**Sight-Reading** - You will be asked to read a melody you haven't seen before.

# JAZZ HIGH SCHOOL

## [Piano]

**Prepare two selections** from the compositions listed below. Please perform the melody, “comp” as if playing behind a soloist once through the form, improvise once through the form, return to the melody and end accordingly:

Blue Monk/Au Privave/All The Things You Are/Half Nelson/Moments  
Notice/Oleo/Body and Soul/In A Sentimental Mood/Misty/Desifinado/Wave  
A Night In Tunisia

### Scales

1. Major Scales-C,F,Bb,Eb,G,D,A. Play ascending and descending, two octaves @ 90bpm, eighth notes.
2. Arpeggios- C,F,Bb,Eb,G,D,A. Play four octaves @ 120bpm, sixteenth notes.

### Sight-Reading

You will be asked to sight read a jazz composition.

# JAZZ HIGH SCHOOL

## [Woodwind / Brass / Violin]

**Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Au Privave

Play the melody once, then improvise over the form/chord changes using the provided play-along audio two times, and return with the melody once. The play-along can be found at

[https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au\\_Privave.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au_Privave.mp3)

2. Four

9<sup>th</sup> grade: Play the melody only.

10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade: Play unaccompanied melody once, then improvise over the form/chord changes once, and return with the melody once.

**Scales**

1. All 12 Major scales. Play ascending and descending, minimum one octave.
2. Natural minor scales- A, D, E, G, B. Play ascending and descending, one octave only.
3. Dominant scales- C, G, D, F. Play ascending and descending, minimum one octave.
4. Chromatic scale- full-range of instrument, ascending and descending.

**Sight Reading**

You will be asked to sight read a jazz composition in the proper key for your Instrument.

## **JAZZ HIGH SCHOOL**

### **[Guitar]**

**Prepare both of the following pieces:**

1. Au Privave

Play the melody once, then the chord changes as if accompanying a horn player for one chorus, then improvise over the form/chord changes using the provided play-along audio for two choruses, and return with the melody. The play-along can be found at

[https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au\\_Privave.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au_Privave.mp3)

2. Autumn Leaves

9<sup>th</sup> graders: Play the melody only.

10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders: Play unaccompanied melody once, then improvise over the form/chord changes once, and return with the melody.

**Sight-Reading**

1. You will be asked to read a jazz composition with chord symbols.
2. You will be asked to sight read a jazz melody.

**Scales & Chords**

1. All 12 major scales, two octaves ascending and descending.
2. All 12 Natural minor scales, one octave, ascending and descending.
3. Chords: A minor 7, D dominant 7, G Major 7, C Major 7.

# JAZZ HIGH SCHOOL

## [Bass]

### Prepare both of the following pieces:

#### 1. Au Privave

Along with the provided play-along audio play the melody once, play a walking bass line once through the form, then improvise two times through the form, and return with the melody. The play-along can be found at

[https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au\\_Privave.mp3](https://www.oakarts.org/documents/Au_Privave.mp3)

#### 2. Recorda-Me

Play a Latin feel (Bossa Nova style) bass line.

### Sight-reading:

1. Sight-read a jazz composition with chord symbols, and play a walking bass line.
2. Sight-read a melody.

### Scales

1. Major Scales- C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Eb, Ab. Play ascending and descending, one octave.
2. Natural minor scales- A, D, G, E, B. Play ascending and descending, one octave.
3. Chromatic Scale, two octaves (from low E to high E on the G String).

# JAZZ HIGH SCHOOL

## [Drums]

### Play the following rhythmic styles:

1. Medium / Up Tempo swing
2. Latin feel of your choice
3. 6/8 (medium)
4. 12/8 (slow)

### Play the following pieces as if you're playing behind the melody:

#### 1. Au Privave

Play melodic rhythm on the snare with 4 beats on the bass drum, and beats 2 & 4 on the high hat. Optional: take a 12 bar solo.

#### 2. Four

Play a jazz swing beat using appropriate hits as if playing with a jazz ensemble during the melody.

### Sight Reading

1. Be prepared play the appropriate feel and tempo for a given jazz composition, and a short rhythmic etude.