



HANDBOOK

Jazz Studies Program Auditions

Auditions for entrance to the George Mason University School of Music are arranged through the School of Music office. Please visit www.music.gmu.edu for admission and audition requirements. Specific audition requirements for the Jazz Studies department can be found <http://music.gmu.edu/jazz-studies/jazz-auditions/>.

Jazz Ensemble Auditions

Mason Jazz Ensembles are open to all George Mason University students regardless of degree. Auditions for placement in Jazz ensembles (Mason Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Workshop, Combos, Afro-Cuban, Traditional Jazz and Mason Jazz Vocal Ensemble) occur the first week of every semester. The audition includes a prepared piece, improvisation, sight-reading and scales. Please refer to the School of Music web site (<https://music.gmu.edu/resources/students/seating-placement-auditions/>) for specific requirements and to sign up for an audition time.

Rehearsal Department

1. Be on time! Rehearsal and performance tardiness will be reflected in your final grade.
2. Use the "Leave it better than you found it" rule with regards to chairs and stands. Chairs must be stacked and stands neatly put away.
3. Assume leadership roles.
4. No food and drink (other than water bottles) are allowed in rehearsal spaces. Period.
5. Listen. Listen. Listen.

Outside Gigs and Course Conflicts

The policy of the Mason Jazz Department is to support outside work and gigs. With that said, commitment to your education and degree must come first. Check your university ensemble performance schedule at the beginning of each semester and make sure to square away conflicts immediately. It is **YOUR** responsibility to speak with your professors if you have a conflict with an ensemble or class.

Performance Dress for ALL Jazz Concerts

Performance dress code is suit and/or coat and tie for men. Women may wear dresses, skirts and blouses, or pant suits.

Mason School of Music Equipment/Instruments for Outside Gigs

Borrowing University owned equipment for outside gigs is **NOT** allowed. School of Music owned instruments and equipment are for university functions only.

Jazz Studies Convocation

The Jazz Studies Convocation will be held at the beginning of each fall semester and is **MANDATORY for Jazz Majors** (undergraduate and graduate). This meeting is strongly encouraged for Jazz minors and those participating in Jazz ensembles.

Applied Lesson Cards

In your weekly (or bi-weekly) applied lessons, you should initial and date that your lesson has been completed. These cards are then turned in at the end of the semester for your final grade. Your applied lesson instructor has these cards.

End of Semester Juries

Requirements for juries are specific to each applied studio. Please check with your applied music instructor regarding their requirements. All music must be memorized, unless it is a lengthy transcription. **YOU** are responsible for bringing three (3) completed Jazz Jury forms (no repertory sheet) to your jury. This form may be obtained online at <https://music.gmu.edu/resources/students/jury-information/>.

Upper Divisional Jury

The "Upper Divisional" jury is a requirement for all Jazz majors for admittance to junior level applied lessons and Jazz courses. The Upper Divisional is a twenty (20) minute jury performed at the end of sophomore year and should include the following: two - three Jazz standards varying in style, scales, transcriptions/etudes and improvisation. Vocalists must also show proficiency in a foreign language (Portuguese, French or Spanish). **All repertoire must be memorized.** It is **YOUR** responsibility to meet with Academic Advisor, Melinda Wildman, Director of Jazz Studies, Dr. Darden Purcell and your applied music instructor, to plan ahead for this jury.

Jazz Rehearsal Facilities (336, 338, 217)

PAB rooms 336, 338 and 217 are dedicated Mason Jazz Studies rehearsal spaces and must be locked and secure at all times. If you find these rooms unlocked for any reason, please report this to Jazz faculty or School of Music office staff. These are **YOUR** spaces and we all must be good stewards.

Use of Jazz Rehearsal Facilities by Students

Students may reserve PAB 336, 338 and 217 for rehearsals if they are not in use by Jazz faculty. To reserve a space, visit <https://music.gmu.edu/mason-jazz-calendars/> and follow the instructions. You will be given a key by Dr. Purcell (during school hours) which you will return to the lock box (in between 336/338) immediately following your rehearsal. Any violation of room policies and this privilege will be revoked.

Percussion

Drummers must provide their own cymbals, sticks and hi-hat clutches and are in charge of keeping their practice spaces clean and organized. Please take care of the equipment and report any missing and/or damaged items to Director of Jazz Studies, Dr. Darden Purcell at dpurcel2@gmu.edu.



Jazz Studies

Recitals

Jazz Studies undergraduate and graduate students will perform multiple recitals throughout their academic career. Please refer to the “Mason Jazz Recital” guidelines for repertoire and program information.

Advising

Ms. Melinda Wildman is the School of Music Academic Advisor. It is imperative you schedule appointments each semester with Ms. Wildman to stay on track for graduation. Visit <https://music.gmu.edu/degree-programs/advising/> for more information.