

## JAZZ ENSEMBLE REGION AUDITIONS

### I. STUDENT ENTRY AND REGISTRATION PROCEDURES

- A. Each student must be entered using the online entry process through TMEA ([www.tmea.org](http://www.tmea.org)).
- B. Each student must declare an intention to be considered for the State level or the Region level only. If no declaration is made, then it is assumed ATSSB students are auditioning for ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble on the State Jazz Ensemble Track. After the entry to the first audition leading to possible membership in the ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble, no change can be made in the Jazz Ensemble track selected, regardless of advancement or loss thereof. Students who are recorded for all-state have officially qualified for area jazz ensemble and will receive an area patch. Furthermore, students who record but do not qualify for the all-state jazz ensemble will remain eligible for all-state consideration in all other ensembles (i.e. concert band, choir, orchestra, etc.). Students who are selected for membership in the ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble may not audition for any other All-State Ensemble (ATSSB or TMEA) that school year. If the performance is not recorded with CD accompaniment, the performer will be disqualified and the entry fee will not be refunded.

### II. SELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT OF ADJUDICATION PANELS

- A. Policies concerning judging panels will remain consistent with Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Ensemble Tryout Procedures and Guidelines.
- B. In addition to the adult monitors in each audition room, each Region should have an adult monitor in the Area/State Recording Room to help maintain decorum in the room, to help the recordings stay on schedule, and to serve as a way for communication to occur between the student and the recording technician. The Region Coordinator or Region Audition Chair shall go over the Monitors' Instructions with Monitors before auditions begin.

### III. AUDITION PROCEDURES

- A. Audition music for the ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble will come from the *ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble Music* and the *ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble CD*. This music is available exclusively from Mattei Music Services, 202 Covey Lane, McKinney, Texas 75071. The Set used will conform to the Year designation being used for region and area auditions each year (Set A will be used when the band auditions are using Year A, etc.).
- B. Students will perform the audition music for their instrument. In the case of trumpet and trombone where there are two parts for each instrument, students will audition on the first part only.
- C. Students will enter the room one at a time and will perform the required Jazz Audition Music Selections (a form on the music stand should have instructions for the allowed warmup). Students auditioning must perform along with the appropriate accompaniment track. The winds are allowed a one-breath warm-up. The rhythm section is allowed 15 seconds (to be timed by the Monitor) of the student playing anything they wish. Warmups must be completed prior to playing Selection 1 of the Jazz Audition Music; any additional notes played after the warmup may result in the loss of points.
- D. Should the student experience an instrument malfunction during the playing of the warmup, the student may have the instrument checked for mechanical problems and return to the audition room before the end of the audition. Once a student sounds the first note of the etude, the student must continue to play and be scored.
- E. No one except the monitor and the judges may be in the room while each student auditions. Screens must be used to assure that anonymity is maintained. Metronome markings should be closely observed so as to maintain the intent of the music. Inaudible metronomes are allowed in the audition rooms to set tempos, but may not be used while the etudes are being performed.
- F. No audible electronic communication devices shall be allowed in the audition room. However, electronic media may be used in lieu of printed music during the audition.
- G. No mutes may be used with any instrument. Guitar may use an electronic or acoustic guitar but must not use effects pedals. Piano may use an acoustic, digital or electronic piano. If digital/electronic, the patch setting must be grand piano/piano.
- H. Region Jazz Ensemble auditions must take place between and including the first Saturday in September and the first Saturday in October.

### IV. RANKING THE STUDENTS

Policies concerning Ranking The Students will remain consistent with Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Band Tryout Procedures and Guidelines.

# JAZZ ENSEMBLE AREA CERTIFICATION

## I. STUDENT ENTRY PROCEDURES

- A. No one may audition on an electronic synthesized wind instrument. Each Region Coordinator shall have certified the following maximum number of students to the Area level (MP3 files to be uploaded per instructions):
- 2 Alto Saxophones
  - 2 Tenor Saxophones
  - 1 Baritone Saxophone
  - 3 Trumpets - must audition on cornet or trumpet, not flugelhorn
  - 3 Tenor Trombones - must audition on slide trombone, not valve trombone or baritone
  - 2 Bass Trombones - must audition on a large-bore slide bass trombone, not a tenor trombone, valve trombone or baritone
  - 1 Guitar
  - 1 Bass - may use an electric bass guitar, an acoustic bass or a string bass (also known as double bass or upright bass)
  - 1 Piano - may use an acoustic, digital or electronic piano - if digital or electronic, the patch setting must be "piano."
  - 2 Drum Sets
- B. At the completion of the region auditions for each instrument, students accepting Area certification from their Region shall record an All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition per their Region's recording guidelines. Jazz Ensemble students who are recorded for All-State have officially qualified for area jazz ensemble and will receive an area patch. Furthermore, students who record but do not qualify for the All-State Jazz Ensemble will remain eligible for all-state consideration in all other ensembles. The All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition should be recorded in one take with pauses between tracks. Students auditioning must perform along with the appropriate accompaniment track from the Audition CD which has no demo recordings on it (only accompaniment). If the performer is not recorded with CD accompaniment, that entry will be disqualified and the entry fee will not be refunded.
1. Recordings shall contain:
    - a. Selection 1 in its entirety of the Jazz Audition Music from that year's designated Set. PAUSE.
    - b. Selection 2 in its entirety of the Jazz Audition Music from that year's designated Set. PAUSE.
    - c. Selection 3 in its entirety of the Jazz Audition Music from that year's designated Set. PAUSE.
    - d. Improvised Solo in the prescribed format along with the Improvised Solo Accompaniment track from that year's Audition CD. PAUSE

Monitor's Instructions for this Improvised Solo should be read aloud by the Monitor exactly as they appear below (**Monitor's instructions are NOT to be recorded**):

    - (1). For all instruments except DRUM SET - "The student auditioning will not be allowed to have any additional material (no written solos) to assist in the improvisation section. For the improvised solo, Wind Instruments, Piano, Guitar, and Bass will play the lead as written the first time, improvise on the remaining two choruses, then play to the end as provided on the *Audition CD*."
    - (2). For DRUM SET ONLY - "For the improvised solo, students should play time on the first chorus, solo on the second chorus, and play syncopated kicks and fills on the third chorus provided on the *Audition CD*."
  2. In any year's designated Set that includes a ballad, all instruments shall play the solo melodic part only; Drum Set shall play rhythm with brushes.
  3. Selections should be played in the above order (See IB1).
  4. Tracks with spoken words or recorded without the accompaniment track will be scored a 0 and may be disqualified from participation in the All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition and, if disqualified, the entry fee will not be returned. Any infraction will be noted and sent to the student's director and region coordinator, giving them the reasons for the scoring penalty.
  5. While recording each student, the recording technician should pause at the end of each recorded selection. It is also recommended that each student have up to one minute between selections to prepare for the recording of the next selection. *This preparation time should not be included in the recording.*
  6. All recordings should be made under the supervision of the Region Coordinator or his designee. All recordings shall be done at one Region recording session. All Regions are urged to follow the All-State Jazz Ensemble Recording Recommendations. **BE SURE TO PREVIEW EACH FILE BEFORE SUBMITTING THEM.**
  7. All recordings are to be submitted to the TMEA server as instructed by TMEA.
- C. Area certification materials should be addressed to the State Jazz Coordinator as listed in the instructions. Materials must be postmarked by the second Saturday of October. Each Region's Area certification materials should include:
1. A Certification Form 9 (produced by the tabulation software) and the ATSSB Jazz Form 9.
  2. A single check from each Region covering the total cost of all certified applicants (\$40.00 per applicant) made payable to "ATSSB."
  3. These items and uploaded recordings must be completed for arrival by the second Saturday of October deadline. It is recommended that directors contact the State Jazz Coordinator by telephone or email several days after shipping to ensure recordings were uploaded properly and entry materials and fees were received.
  5. Designated Regions are encouraged to submit names of those directors willing to judge the Designated Region Jazz Adjudication recordings.
- D. The identity of the State Jazz Coordinator shall be reported to the Region Band and Region Jazz Chairs at the ATSSB State Board Meeting held during TBA and shall be published on the ATSSB website.

## II. ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE Recording Adjudication Procedure

- A. All Jazz entries recorded at the region level are to be uploaded and fees sent *by the second Saturday in October*.
- B. When the Designated Region Coordinators is notified that all recordings are ready, the Designated Region Coordinator will assemble a panel of judges to select their Set of the All-State Jazz Ensemble by the Saturday following the UIL State Marching Contest. Class consciousness shall be encouraged on each panel. Each Designated Region adjudication room shall have an adult Monitor to help the audition stay on schedule.
- C. Only ATSSB-member directors may serve as judges. Exception: After all attempts to secure ATSSB members as judges has been exhausted, that Region Coordinator may use non-ATSSB members as judges provided those non-ATSSB members are active TMEA members. Judges may be paid a \$75 honorarium (no meal or mileage allowance).
- D. All Designated Region Coordinators may be paid a \$100 honorarium for their services.
- E. The recordings will be divided into seven Sets as follows: SET 1 - Alto Saxophone (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 2 Alto Saxophones to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); SET 2 - Tenor and Baritone Saxophone (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 2 Tenor Saxophones and 1 Baritone Saxophone to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); SET 3 - Trumpet (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 5 trumpets to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); SET 4 - Tenor Trombone (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 3 Tenor Trombones to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); SET 5 - Bass Trombone (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 2 Bass Trombones to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); SET 6 - Piano, Guitar, Bass Guitar (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 1 piano, 1 guitar and 1 bass guitar to the All-State Jazz Ensemble); and SET 7 - Drums (Designated Region Coordinators will certify 2 Drums to the All-State Jazz Ensemble).
- F. Each All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition recording shall be given a randomly assigned audition letter by the audition software.
- G. Auditions will be held in one round beginning with the first randomly assigned audition letter. The panel members will listen to each recording in its entirety.
- H. No identifying marks on the All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition recording shall be made visible in the adjudication room if the panel is meeting in one location.
- I. Visitors may be allowed to attend the adjudication session at the discretion of the Area host (depending on room size and availability of spectator space). Should the presence of visitors distract judges from their task, the audition shall be suspended until everyone except adjudicators, monitor and/or technician has been cleared from the area.
- J. The date for the Designated Region Jazz Ensemble Adjudication shall be reported at the ATSSB State Board Meeting held during TBA and shall be published on the ATSSB website.
- K. The Designated Region Jazz Ensemble Adjudication shall take place on the 2nd Saturday of November, on the same date as TMEA Mariachi and TMEA Orchestra Area auditions..
- L. Results will be available on the TMEA website after the completed files have been submitted. Tabulated results will be final on Tuesday at 9 am after the auditions conclude on Saturday, after which no appeal can be made regarding the published outcome.

## III. ALL-STATE JAZZ ENSEMBLE RECORDING RECOMMENDATIONS

A quality audio recorder should be used to create each recording. A studio grade stereo condenser or pair of condenser microphones should be used to record (Shure KSM32 or comparable). A quality, professional line microphone preamp should be used with minimal signal to noise ratio and distortion (dbx 386 or comparable). Microphones should be placed at approximately player's eye level and 3 to 4 feet away from the instrument. Microphone levels should be run at the maximum db level without distortion. The level should remain constant from player to player. Files shall be exported as .mp3 files only.

## IV. RANKING THE STUDENTS

- A. All-State Jazz Ensemble Audition recordings will be placed in rank order using the Olympic scoring procedures outlined in the Association of Texas Small School Bands All-State Tryout Procedures and Guidelines.
- B. The maximum number of students assigned chairs in the ATSSB All-State Jazz Ensemble will be:
 

2 Alto Saxophones	2 Bass Trombones
2 Tenor Saxophones	1 Guitar
1 Baritone Saxophone	1 Bass
5 Trumpets	1 Piano
3 Tenor Trombones	2 Drum Sets
- C. Individual judges' rankings shall be available for review by the ATSSB Executive Committee and Jazz Coordinator only during the time period for appeals. No copies of the judges' rankings or scores shall be made available to directors, students, parents, or administrators via posts on web pages, social media or in print. Tabulated results will be final Tuesday at 9 am after the auditions conclude on Saturday.
- D. All students certified by their Region to the Designated Region Coordinator will be ranked in the Designated Region Adjudication.
- E. If an originally Area certified student becomes unable to attend the All-State Jazz Ensemble clinic (because of illness, academic ineligibility, etc.), it shall be the responsibility of the State Jazz Coordinator to certify the alternate to state.