

Master of Music (M.M.) in Jazz Studies

Audition Requirements

Middle Tennessee State University

Master of Arts applicants are expected to present an audition demonstrating ability and preparation at the level of an undergraduate degree recital. Skills and knowledge that demonstrate musical background and potential for success in graduate study will be assessed. If you have any questions, please contact Jamey Simmons, Director of Jazz Studies, at James.Simmons@mtsu.edu

The following requirements apply to all pitched instruments: jazz guitar, double bass, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, and piano. (See below for Drummers and Jazz Vocalists)

The audition will consist of an assessment of the following:

1. Performance of major scales and modes, harmonic minor scales, melodic minor scales and modes, chromatic scale, half/whole diminished, blues scales, and dominant bebop scales. All scales must be prepared in all 12 keys and played the full range of instrument/voice.
2. Arpeggios: major, minor, augmented, and diminished triads; major 7th, dominant 7th, minor 7th, minor 7th b5, diminished 7th chords; all in root position, twelve keys, two octaves.
3. Sight-reading skills
4. Three songs, one each from lists 1 and 2 & 3 below, all memorized (melody and chords). Play the melody (acoustic bass players must play melody arco), comp one chorus (guitar and piano only), walk one chorus (bass only), improvise one chorus, and play the melody again.

LIST 1

Scrapple From The
Apple
Half Nelson
Blues For Alice
Ornithology

LIST 2

Have You Met Miss
Jones
All the Things You Are
Stella By Starlight
Lady bird

LIST 3

Body and Soul
In A Sentimental Mood
I Can't Get Started
Round Midnight

Drum Set – Jazz Studies Graduate Audition Requirements

1. All percussion applicants must complete all applications to MTSU and to the School of Music.
2. The applicant should submit a screening video which will be reviewed by the faculty to determine your invitation for an on-campus audition. The applicant will be notified regarding the results of the viewing prior to their requested audition date. On-site auditions are for applicants who have passed the screening video audition. All applicants shall provide a copy of their audition repertoire to be included with the screening recording DVD recording. Here is how you should format your video:
 - a. At the beginning of the video, state your name.
 - b. State the degree that you are seeking.
 - c. Announce the title and composer before each selection.
 - d. Double check your dvd on various players to assure that everything is in order.
 - e. All videos must be unedited and without artificial audio enhancement.
 - f. Please note that the DVDs will not be returned.
 - g. Please include a 2-3 minute statement to comment on why MTSU School of Music interests you and what you hope to accomplish while attending this university.

The applicant can send their video to:
MTSU
School of Music
Prof. Lalo Davila
Murfreesboro, TN. 37132

The screening repertoire is the same as for the live audition. If you advance to an on-campus audition, you may choose to change your audition repertoire, but this is not required.

If you would be unable to schedule a live on-campus audition if you advance, then at the beginning of your screening recording state your name, and the degree and major you seek, and that this is your "**screening and final percussion audition video**".

3. The student must also contact Dr. Paul Osterfield, Graduate Coordinator, for possible additional requirements. His email is Paul.Osterfield@mtsu.edu
4. The student will also provide three letters of reference prior to their audition.

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Jazz Studies – Drum Set – Graduate Audition Repertoire

All applicants must perform various styles and sight reading on drumset. It is suggested that you bring an additional DVD of performances with a jazz combo or big band. The applicant will be asked to demonstrate:

- ❖ Soloing in various settings: trading fours, filling, and improvising over an ostinato
- ❖ Perform a fast tempo bebop melody on the drum set (Blues For Alice, Ornithology, Scrapple From the Apple)
- ❖ Knowledge of the jazz idiom, traditional and modern, at various tempos.
- ❖ Proficiency in rock, funk, and fusion styles.
- ❖ Knowledge of various Afro-Cuban styles including Cha-Cha-Cha, Bolero, Songo, Afro-Cuban 6/8, and Son Montuno.
- ❖ The student will also be asked to perform the following styles: Bossa Nova, Samba, and Partido Alto.
- ❖ They will be asked to read drum charts of diverse styles.
- ❖ The student will probably perform with a play-a-long recording (provided) as part of a sight-reading process.
- ❖ The student will demonstrate good knowledge of jazz vibes and concert percussion.

For those graduate students seeking Graduate Assistantships, a drum set solo (and experience in drum set instruction) is mandatory.

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Jazz Voice Audition Repertoire

- ❖ Perform selections from each of the following categories and perform, memorized. Please provide the faculty panel with the lead sheets and/or arrangements that you are using. The student is responsible for accompaniment at the audition, in the form of an accompanist or backing track.
 - 2 – 3 standards from the American Songbook, demonstrating different styles/tempo.
 - 1 blues
 - 1 other selection of your choice that demonstrates your abilities. A classical or “latin” tune may be chosen to demonstrate ability in those styles.
- ❖ Provide the faculty with a professional resume and a list of memorized jazz repertoire.
- ❖ A jazz theory diagnostic exam may be required.
- ❖ Complete all other MTSU application materials, including reference letters, transcripts and GRE scores.