Jazz Audition Requirements /Undergraduate Drumset

Entering freshmen and new transfer students wishing to be Jazz Studies majors, as well as other students wishing to be considered for jazz performance scholarships must audition for the jazz faculty. You should choose audition music that best demonstrates your musical background and potential. Undergraduates must perform a classical audition as well, thereby providing the faculty with a greater sense of the student’s background, aptitude and overall musicality. (See the audition requirements for the percussion audition.)

The audition will consist of:

1. **Two contrasting prepared jazz pieces**
   
   For instance: blues, ballad, medium swing and/or up-tempo bebop.
   
   - The student should play the melody and an improvised solo on each.

2. **Demonstrating competence in a variety of jazz drum time feels and tempos by playing along with various stylistic rhythm track program.**
   
   - Jazz Studies applicants should demonstrate skill in rhythmic improvisation in swing/be-bop, Afro-Cuban and Brazilian, and funk styles over Blues and AABA tunes and song forms.

3. **Sight-reading** consisting of music from jazz big-band tradition

4. **Please note:** Undergraduates must also perform a classical audition as well, thereby providing the faculty with a greater sense of the student’s background, aptitude and overall musicality. (See the audition requirements for your instrument for information)

For more information, or to schedule an audition, Jamey Simmons at (615) 898-2724, or email: James.Simmons@mtsu.edu.

While not preferred, an audition tape may be accepted at the discretion of the jazz faculty.