

PMEA District 9 Jazz Procedures



Updated March 19, 2010

1. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES:

The membership of the District Jazz Band will be determined by auditions referred to as Acceptance Auditions. These will normally be scheduled at District 9 Band Festival. Only 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade instrumental students, who are members of their school band, orchestra may audition for a place in the District Jazz Festival. The student's band director must be a current member of the PMEA and participate in the work of the festival. Proof of membership will be required both at the registration for acceptance auditions and at the festival.

The students own director has three areas of responsibility:

- A. He/She must serve on an assigned audition committee at the acceptance auditions unless otherwise approved by the Jazz Coordinator.
- B. He/She should be available as the representative of his/her school and the student's parents in case of a medical emergency or disciplinary problem. If held in conjunction with the elementary Band Music Fest, the school representative at the music festival may serve in this capacity.
- C. He/She should be a representative of his students and school at the festival business meeting should one be necessary. The individual school remains responsible for its participating students for the duration of the festival. Should it be necessary to send a student home, the home school district must be responsible.

The district president and the festival host may jointly approve a qualified substitute for the director when unique circumstances occur. Requests for substitute approval must be made prior to the auditions and must be prompted by extreme circumstances, not personal convenience or preference.

In most cases, lead parts and solos may be rotated due to endurance and the nature of the Jazz festival. Students will be rated solely on the basis of their performances on their CD. Directors will be asked to certify the authenticity of the CD on the student application form.

2. AUDITION MUSIC:

- A. The student will record on CD each of the excerpts. If all four excerpts are not completed the audition will be considered incomplete and the student will not be considered for the ensemble.
- B. All wind, guitar, piano, and bass students will record the following excerpts in this order.
 - 1) A major scale swung in eight notes up to the 9th and back down (quarter note = 100)
Saxophone – Concert Bb – 1 octave
Trombone – Concert F – 2 octaves
Trumpet – Concert Eb – 1 octave
Pno/Bs/Gut. – Concert Bb – 2 octaves
 - 2) Jazz Etude – See Rotation – Effective Studies for Jazz
 - 3) Jazz Ballad from JA vol.25 – See Rotation
 - 4) Jazz Improvisation - The students will be required to improvise using Jamey Aebersold's Volume 54 - Maiden Voyage, using Bb blues. Improvise on the head twice, but keep the melody clearly recognizable. Then improvise two solo choruses.

C. Drums: Will perform the written excerpt, followed by 3 “styles” (Swing 1/4 note =120, Funk 1/4 note= 90, Latin 1/4 note=120) Each style will be 16 measure long; three measures of time followed by a 1 measure fill. The student will play an improvised drum solo in any style. The judges will listen to no more than 1 minute of the solo.

D. Lead trumpet and trombone along with bass trombone will have an optional 4th excerpt for that specific chair. (see attachment) The committee will take these excerpts in consideration while seating each section in the band.

3. GROUP SIZE AND INSTRUMENTATION

A. The District 9 Jazz Band will consist of:

- * 4 trumpets
- * 4 trombones
- * 2 alto saxophones
- * 2 tenor saxophones
- * 1 baritone saxophone
- * 1 Bass (Electric or String Bass)
- * 1 Trap Drums (Percussionist)
- * 1 Piano (Synthesizer)
- * 1 Guitar and/or mallets

B. The guest conductor can request additional instrumentation as needed.

4. AUDITIONS - GENERAL PROCEDURES

Students will be chosen for membership and placed in a section as a result of their scores in the acceptance auditions. These auditions will also function as chair seating auditions.

5. AUDITION MATERIALS

Rating forms: The audition chairman or festival host will obtain an adequate supply of the official rating forms from district officers on advance of the audition date.

6. JUDGING PROCESS

Applications will be rated on the basis of adjudication of all judges assigned to that instrument. Rating of all students will be determined by the total of the judge’s scores. All sheets should include the judge’s signature. The white copy of the individual score sheets and composites of the score sheets will go to the president. The individual score sheets are considered the official scores. Highest and lowest judge’s score for any one student must not exceed the ten-point range.

7. COMPUTATION OF SCORES AND RANKING

Due to the size of this festival, there will be no separate tally committee. The audition judges will tally the scores and report the ranking to the respective students and their directors. In the case of TIES, the students involved will all be accepted into the festival.

8. ASSIGNMENT OF PARTS

The assignment of parts will generally follow the formula of the highest scores receiving the lead part in the section, and audition committee recommendation shall be considered. Due to

the nature of the Jazz band part assignments, all students will receive parts, which contain solos. These may consist of a variety of parts.

A. Trumpet: The four highest scores will be considered for part assignments.

Trumpet 1- The student that exhibits the best proficiency in the upper tessitura of the instrument as well as superior interpretation and musicianship skills will be assigned this seat.

Trumpet 2- Of the three remaining players, the student with the best improvisation score will be chosen for this seat.

Trumpet 3- Of the remaining two, this player should most closely mimic the skills of the Trumpet 1 seat. This seat may become a split lead chair upon the recommendation of the committee.

Trumpet 4- The remaining student is assigned this seat.

B. Trombone: The four highest scores will be considered for part assignments.

Trombone 1- The player with the highest score is assigned this part.

Trombone 4- Of the three remaining students, the student exhibiting the best low range of the instrument as well as superior interpretation and musician skills will be assigned this seat.

Trombone 2- Of the two remaining players in the pool, the highest score will be assigned this seat.

Trombone 3- The remaining student in the pool is assigned this seat.

9. ALTERNATES

If an alternate is needed, the next student in the ranking will be notified. In the event that no other available/qualified student has auditioned for a position in the festival, a substitute player may be appointed to assist the group at the host director's discretion.

10. HOST SCHOOL REPRESENTATION

The school hosting the festival will be assured of one participant in the district Jazz festival.

The audition committee and host director will decide on which student from that school would be the most beneficial to the ensemble and add that person.

Representatives will be selected only from those who submit CDs.

11. REGISTRATION FEE REFUND

In the event an eligible student cannot come to the festival, the registration fee will be refunded if a qualified substitute can be obtained to take the place of a student. If the substitute cannot be obtained, the host will endeavor to the best of his/her ability to refund as much of the fee as possible.

12. HOST REQUIREMENTS

All participating schools in District 9 Jazz Band must host the festival on a rotating basis. Hosting the District 9 Jazz Band festival does not qualify the school in the rotation for hosting District Band, Chorus, or Orchestra.

13. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

These rules and audition procedures may be reviewed yearly at the festival business meeting.

This copy of the by-laws should be saved from year to year. Minor changes will be published by means of a memo to be added as an additional appendix to the outstanding copies.

Complete republication will take place if major and extensive changes are voted into practice.

New members will receive a current copy from their music department chairman when they join the school staff.