



2023 - 2024 Jazz & Creative Orchestras Audition Information

Ages 12 - 18 will get an ensemble experience like no other in our Jazz & Creative Orchestras this year! Whether you are new to jazz, or a long-time player, you'll enjoy studying, playing, and performing the outstanding repertoire of jazz greats alongside your peers October through June.

Audition Process and Important Dates:

- 1 - Review each ensemble's program details and commitment required. Get any and all questions you have answered via our website, emailing jessica@kalamazoomusicschool.com or calling us at 269-350-4311. Decide that you're going to go for it!
- 2 - The required ensemble audition materials for both KYJO and KYJLB are available on our website. Complete the required form on the website and submit the virtual audition materials to jessica@kalamazoomusicschool.com by **SEPTEMBER 22** by 11:59pm.
- 3 - Stay tuned until **SEPTEMBER 26**, when you'll be notified of which ensembles you were selected for via email.
- 4 - Accept your spot in an ensemble by **SEPTEMBER 28**. Your first month's tuition will be billed on **OCTOBER 1** and rehearsals start **that same week!**
- 5 - Mark your calendar with all your ensemble's important dates and get excited to have a great year!

Ensemble Information:

All interested musicians between 8th and 12th grade (younger with teacher recommendation) with a minimum intermediate ability on their instrument are welcome to audition. No prior experience playing jazz or improvising is required. Our faculty will decide on ensemble placement for each musician based upon ability, experience and where they feel the musician will benefit the most. If there is enough interest, additional ensembles will be formed to accommodate the ability/experience levels of musicians interested.

Kalamazoo Youth Jazz Orchestra (KYJO) is Southwest Michigan's **premier youth jazz ensemble**/big band and our advanced youth ensemble featuring between 18-20 student musicians allowing them the opportunity to grow as jazz musicians and community musical leaders. During the season (October - June), students will rehearse weekly and perform professional level music. Ages 12 - 18, rehearses 90 minutes weekly on

Tuesdays from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Tuition is \$175/mo for 9 months or \$125/mo for students enrolled in private lessons at KMS.

Kalamazoo Youth Jazz Lab Band (KYJLB) is a jazz ensemble/big band for student musicians who aspire to be part of the KYJO but need a bit more jazz experience and foundations. This band meets weekly and is the ideal situation for students to solidify their fundamental skills and grow as jazz musicians in a very supportive environment. Students will get professional guidance on their specific instrument while playing professional level music. Ages 12 - 18, rehearses 60 minutes weekly on Tuesdays from 5:00pm - 6:15pm. Tuition is \$140/mo for 9 months or \$98/mo for students enrolled in private lessons at KMS.

Rehearsal + Performance Schedule:

Rehearsals begin October through the end of June 2024 on Tuesday evenings. Performances are December 2023, with location TBD.

Attendance Policy:

Every rehearsal and performance is important and your presence is necessary. Absences will only be approved by the ensemble director (including emergencies, illness, specific family/school obligations, etc), please contact them as soon as possible if this is the case. Otherwise, any *unexcused* absence might result in being asked to leave the program. Acceptance of a position in an ensemble is also accepting the performance schedule. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jessica Cook at jessica@kalamazoomusicschool.com. Some exceptions can be made for October during which marching band season is finishing up.

Professional Expectations:

As a member of KYJO/KYJLB, there is an assumed expectation of high level professionalism and preparation. Punctuality is a minimum expectation of all members. A positive and open attitude will be necessary at all times. Members are expected to have music prepared, practiced and ready for rehearsal. A negative attitude or unwillingness to participate is grounds for removal from the ensemble with no refund.

COVID Safety Protocols:

We are very aware of the possible shifting changes of the COVID pandemic and will make changes as necessary to ensure safety for everyone involved. At present, masks are optional at all rehearsals and performances.

Tuition:

Tuition is automatically billed monthly on the 25th of the month prior from October through June. Instrument rental or maintenance are additional expenses for players. Once selected, players must make the full nine-month commitment. Students who are new to Kalamazoo Music School will also have a \$30 enrollment fee per student. Tuition includes a Jazz & Creative Orchestra 2023 - 2024 Season t-shirt.

Audition Information For Both Ensembles (4 steps):

Step 1. Complete the required audition application form available via our website or at

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfjdhSiYENCEESehxt6tQJCS89RhM8TgpA3MbQ5P_bX-v9xQ/vi/ewform

Step 2. Record your video audition: Please create **ONE VIDEO** that is not edited, spliced, or manipulated in any way. You can do this on your phone or on your computer. If you are having issues with this or have questions, let us know and we can help you out. The video should include all of the following:

- Announce your name as it appears on your audition application.
- Personal Piece: Any selection that shows your ability on your instrument. Preferably a jazz selection, if possible, but not required. (*please announce piece name verbally*)
- Prepared Piece: Select the prepared piece for your instrument in the band you're auditioning for. Sheet music is available for access and download at this link: (<https://kalamazoomusicschool.com/audition-materials>) (Ex. [Q-U] means play ONLY from rehearsal mark Q to rehearsal mark U). Take it at the tempo you can best perform it.

***KYJO AUDITION SELECTIONS**

Cottontail - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbOseBw-fnU>

Saxes (2:04-2:37) [Q-U]

Lead Trumpet, 2nd Trumpet (Section) (1:33-1:48, 2:51-2:59) [M-O, W-X]

Mellow Tone - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht_Pb955E8s

Piano [m.1-6]

Trombone [A-C]

Bass [Beg-C]

Better Days Ahead - <https://youtu.be/DgSOXE43KiA>

Guitar [20-36] (1:09-1:33)

Basie Straight Ahead - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fm8uHT-BJP4>

Drums [K-End](3:04-End)

***KYJLB AUDITION SELECTIONS**

Second Line [5-22 - take 2nd ending] -

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?&productID=2480780&type=audio>

- Scales (Brass & Woodwind Only): Two octave Bb chromatic scale (or as high as you're able to play)
 - Those interested in applying for lead trumpet, please play this scale as high as you can comfortably play.
- Improvisation (optional): For those wanting to be considered for jazz solo consideration, please perform a blues or a tune of your choice with a play-along track or acapella with a metronome.
- FOR DRUMMERS: Please show an example of the following grooves (15-20 seconds each):
 1. Two Swing Grooves (Fast + Slow)
 2. One Latin (Your preferred specific style and tempo - announce on the video)
 3. Funk (medium tempo)

Step 3. Upload your video audition: Be sure to label the file name with YOUR NAME as it appears on your application and then upload here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1hECOzKcvKlecvws45-Tnq1zvY6Ao2KQJ?usp=sharing>

Step 4. Notify us of your submission (All steps are due no later than 11:59pm on SEPTEMBER 22):

Email jessica@kalamazoomusicschool.com to let him know you have finalized your audition submission.

For more information or questions, please contact: jessica@kalamazoomusicschool.com