

Audition Requirements

Due to the nature of the ensemble, all students will be required to demonstrate facility on a variety of styles. These styles can include Pop, Rock, Hip Hop, R&B, Country, Metal, or other genres.

While singing is not mandatory, preparation of a short excerpt demonstrating singing ability is recommended.

Vocals/Rap

2 prepared songs of contrasting style performed with instrument track (no-sing-alongs) or live ensemble:

- One piece should demonstrate background vocals or ability to sing harmonies
- One piece should include improvisation (melodic and/or lyrical). Some ideas for soloists to emulate are: Aretha Franklin, Freddie Mercury, James Brown, Esperanza Spalding, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton
- One piece can be original, at least one must be a cover
- Rapping highly encouraged, either as a cover or original

Guitar

2 prepared songs of contrasting style:

- Should demonstrate diversity of both rhythmic and melodic playing
- One piece should include a lead guitar solo. Some ideas for soloists to emulate are: Jimi Hendrix, Annie Clark, Carlos Santana, David Gilmour, Nancy Wilson, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Prince, etc.
- Pieces should demonstrate variety of chordal usage: open chords, barre chords, power chords, triads, etc.

Bass

4 prepared bass grooves:

- Should demonstrate a variety of styles that show versatility and ability to play in the pocket
- Some ideas for bassists to emulate for cover grooves: James Jamerson, Carol Kaye, Flea, Paul McCartney, John Entwistle, Gail Ann Dorsey, etc.
- One can be composed, three should be covers

Drums

2 prepared pieces and 2-4 additional grooves

- Should demonstrate a variety of groove styles: aka Rock, Hip Hop, Latin, etc.
- Must demonstrate ability to play along with recording to demonstrate ability to switch between drum grooves in sections of the song

- Additional grooves should be recorded with a drum-less jam track or a metronome

Other Instruments (ukulele, brass, strings, winds, etc.)

2 prepared pieces

- Should demonstrate style and versatility as lead or accompanist
- Should include improvisatory section
- Encouraged for brass, strings and winds: an original, simple arrangement of you playing backgrounds over a chord progression. This can be recorded multi-track or with live section players