

Jazz Audition Requirements for Undergraduate Admission, UW-Madison Mead Witter School of Music

Updated for 2020-2021 Covid / online format

Please see additional information about the Mead Witter School of Music application process here:
<http://www.music.wisc.edu/undergraduate-admissions/>

Video pre-screening materials (due at the time of the application deadline)

Please submit private YouTube links to video recordings of the following materials. These pieces may be performed / recorded with collaborating musicians where doing so can be done safely and in accordance with local and state health department guidelines, or with pre-recorded backing tracks of the applicant's choice, or as unaccompanied solo pieces.

- 3 jazz compositions in contrasting styles. One of the pieces must be in a medium-tempo swing feel. All of the pieces should include melody statements and improvised solos. Rhythm section players should also demonstrate accompanying techniques in these pieces (for examples, bass lines in different styles, guitar or piano comping, playing "time" on drums).
- One fully notated piece without improvisation, such as a piece from the classical repertoire, a jazz etude, or a jazz solo transcription

Please also submit PDFs of the sheet music of all four pieces.

The live (video-conferenced) audition

Pending a successful review of the pre-screening materials, applicants will be scheduled for a 20-minute video-conferenced live audition over Zoom on the formal audition date. Following the pre-screening, applicants will receive email notification and feedback from the jazz faculty regarding which pieces to prepare for the live audition. In most situations, the live audition will consist of one sight-reading piece, plus one or two pieces from the pre-screening videos. Based on the pre-screening, faculty may also send feedback on additional techniques or styles they would like the applicant to demonstrate at the live audition. The live audition will be unaccompanied.

The sight-reading piece: applicants will be emailed a PDF of a short "sight-reading" piece one hour prior to their live audition time. Applicants are encouraged to prepare and practice this piece prior to their live audition.

Applicants are encouraged to schedule a "mock audition" with a friend using Zoom to familiarize themselves with the platform, and to work out any technological issues (such a microphone placements, audio settings, etc) prior to the day of the actual audition. To facilitate the sight-reading component of the live audition, applicants should plan on having access to either a printer or a tablet/e-reader to print or display the music they will be emailed one hour prior to their audition time.