Furman University Jazz Ensemble and Combo Auditions

(Important: You do NOT need to be an improvising musician to audition for the jazz ensembles!!! Our jazz auditions are designed to be a low-key way for us to accurately assess your experience level as a jazz musician. Even if you have had LITTLE or NO experience in jazz, please feel free to audition. We will do our very best to include everyone we can in our program!)

Please read all of the information pertaining to your instrument type.

General Information

Audition results will be emailed to each student who auditioned and posted on the bulletin board outside of Daniel Music Building Room 13 by Thursday, August 24.

Rehearsals for the Furman Jazz Ensemble will take place on Tuesdays from 5:30-7:00 PM, and Thursdays from 2:30-3:20 PM, beginning Monday, August 28. Combo rehearsals will be arranged differently for each group, and will begin during the week of August 28. Each combo is expected to meet one hour each week on their own and one hour with their faculty combo coach.

If you need more information, please email Dr. Olson at Matt.Olson@furman.edu.

Rhythm Section (Piano, Guitar, Bass, Drums)

- Audition date and time: Tuesday, August 22, 7:00-8:30 PM in Daniel Music Building Room 13 (Large Ensemble Room)

- NOTE: Rhythm Section musicians must stay for the entire audition time period. We will be putting you into different combinations of players during that time.

- You will be put into a variety of different groupings for the purposes of our auditions. You will all be asked to play examples of the following tunes:

  1. Bb Blues – medium swing and fast swing
  2. How Insensitive in a bossa nova style
  3. What’s New as a ballad – pianists and guitarists should be prepared to play the melody as well as comp
  4. You will sight read a chart as a group.
  5. OPTIONAL improvisation on the assigned tunes.
Copies of the rhythm section audition music can be found here.

We are looking for your command of each of these styles, ability to comp and interact as a group, your time feel, ability to sight-read, and overall demonstration of jazz styles.

**Horn Players**

- Audition dates and time: **Monday, August 21, from 1:30-3:30 PM, and Wednesday, August 23, from 2:30-3:20 PM** in Daniel Music Building **Room 13** (Large Ensemble Room)

- Please **sign up** for a time on the bulletin board outside of **Daniel Music Building Room 13**.

- Please arrive at your audition **10 minutes early** to fill out an information sheet.

- Please prepare the following music for the audition:
  1. Prepared jazz etude – “IND Line” from the Jim Snidero *Jazz Conception* series. This etude is also labeled “Track 12,” and is located on pages 24-25 of the book. If you don’t have the book, copies of the etude are available online.
  2. Sight-reading
  3. **OPTIONAL** improvisation on either a Bb or F blues. You do **not** need to be an improvising musician to audition!

Copies of the horn audition music can be found here:
- Alto and Baritone Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Trumpet
- Trombone