Jazz Saxophone Audition Requirements

Undergraduate Audition Requirements

I. Repertoire: Choose one piece from each of the following categories. Applicants must bring play-along CDs of their selections to their live audition. Applicants auditioning by video or audio recording may use a live rhythm section or a play-along. Substitutions of similar pieces from each category are acceptable.

A. **Blues** - play melody and 3 improvised solo choruses.
   1. Billie’s Bounce, Charlie Parker, F
   2. Equinox, John Coltrane, Db minor
   3. Blue Monk, Thelonious Monk, Bb

B. **Rhythm Changes or medium tempo jazz standard** - play melody and 2 improvised solo choruses.
   1. Oleo, Sonny Rollins, Bb
   2. What is This Thing Called Love, Cole Porter, Bb
   3. Anthropology, Charlie Parker, Bb

C. **Ballad** - play melody and one improvised solo chorus.
   1. Body and Soul, Johnny Green, Db
   2. You Don’t Know What Love Is, DePaul and Raye, F minor
   3. God Bless the Child, Billie Holiday, Eb

II. Scales and arpeggios: Major and melodic minor scales and triads in 12 keys, two octaves when possible. Note: for recorded audition, play scales and triads in Bb Major, Db Major, F minor, and C# minor.

III. **Transcription**: One unaccompanied performance of a transcription of a solo by a major jazz saxophonist, one chorus minimum for a 32-bar standard song form or 3 choruses minimum for a 12 bar blues. The transcription may be read from a published source such as the Charlie Parker Omnibook or played from memory. Appropriate choices include, but are not limited to solos by Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Johnny Hodges, Charlie Parker, Sonny Stitt, Stan Getz, Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderley, John Coltrane, Joe Henderson, Wayne Shorter, Michael Brecker, and Kenny Garrett.
Graduate Audition Requirements

I. Repertoire: Choose three pieces from different categories below. Applicants must bring playalong CDs of their selections to their live audition. Applicants auditioning by video or audio recording may use a live rhythm section or a play-along. Substitutions of works from the repertoire or original compositions that demonstrate similar skills are acceptable and encouraged.

A. Blues - play melody and 3 improvised solo choruses.
Cheryl, Charlie Parker, F
Blues for Alice, Charlie Parker, F
Mr. Day, John Coltrane, Gb

B. Up-Tempo – play melody and 2 improvised solo choruses.
Eternal Triangle, Sonny Stitt, Bb
Cherokee, Ray Noble, Bb
Giant Steps, John Coltrane, B
Inner Urge, Joe Henderson

C. Ballad - play melody and one improvised solo chorus.
Prelude to a Kiss, Ellington, C
‘Round Midnight, Thelonious Monk, F minor
Lush Life, Billy Strayhorn, Db

D. Waltz - play melody and two improvised solo choruses.
Up Jumped Spring, Hubbard, Bb
Little B’s Poem, Hutcherson
Jitterbug Waltz, Waller, Eb

II. Scales and arpeggios:
Major and melodic minor scales in 12 keys, full range of the horn (no altissimo).
Note: for recorded audition, play scales in Bb Major, Db Major, F minor, and C# minor. Major, minor and dominant seventh chords around the circle of 5ths, 12 keys.

III. Transcription- One unaccompanied performance of a transcription of a solo by a major jazz saxophonist, two choruses minimum for a 32-bar standard song form or 4 choruses minimum for a 12-bar blues. The transcription may be read from a published source such as the Charlie Parker Omnibook or played from memory. Appropriate choices include, but are not limited to solos by Lester Young, Coleman Hawkins, Johnny Hodges, Charlie Parker, Sonny Stitt, Stan Getz, Sonny Rollins, Cannonball Adderley, John Coltrane, Joe Henderson, Wayne Shorter, Michael Brecker, and Kenny Garrett.

Questions - Please contact
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