NIU Jazz Audition Requirements

Please review and prepare all requirements thoroughly. Auditions are held in person at NIU in February, unless otherwise determined. Please register for an audition date on our website or at go.niu.edu/musicaudition.

If you are unable to attend NIU’s official audition days, contact the Music Admissions Coordinator (avmenk@niu.edu) for permission to schedule an independent audition or obtain approval to submit an unedited video audition. Please bring copies of your music for the adjudication panel.

All applicants (undergraduate and graduate) must prepare the requirements under Assigned Excerpt, Technique, Improvisation, and Reading sections as appropriate for the instrument you will be auditioning. Graduate students have additional requirements listed at the end of this page. Undergraduates will complete an aural skills assessment at the time of audition. Sight reading exercises may be given at the time of audition for all applicants.

If you are auditioning only for the undergraduate Music Minor, you will complete all Technique and Reading requirements, and only the blues melody under Improvisation.

- Assigned excerpt
  - Each instrument has an assigned excerpt of music in the later portion of this document. Please scroll to find the appropriate assignment for the instrument(s) you will be auditioning on. Some excerpts may have a distinction between undergraduate and graduate requirements, others may not.

Attached music:

- Tenor Saxophone - p. 3
- Alto Saxophone - p. 4
- Bass - p. 5-6
- Piano - p. 7-8
- Drums - p. 9-12
- Guitar - p. 13-14
- Tenor Trombone - p. 15-18
- Trumpet - p. 19
• Technique
  • Assigned audition excerpt (please see below for respective studio excerpts)
  • Scales, full range
    • Major: Bb, E, and Ab; E melodic minor; C harmonic minor; Chromatic scale
    • Guitar* - major, natural and harmonic minor – multiple position; pentatonic
  • Triad arpeggios, full range
    • Major: C, Eb, F#
    • Minor: D, F, Ab
    • Guitar*: Major and minor triads; diatonic 7th chords (Maj7, Min7, Dm7, Min7b5), 2 octaves
• Improvisation
  • Blues melody of choice and 2 choruses of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 2 choruses);
  • Rhythm changes or standard melody of choice and 1 chorus of improvisation (*rhythm section players must also comp appropriate to style for 1 chorus)
• Reading
  • Sight reading of music appropriate for level of entrance (including chord reading for bass, guitar and piano
  • Graduate candidates also prepare
    • Rhythm changes and standard melody of choice
    • Ballad of choice, 2 choruses maximum including melody and improvisation (unaccompanied, chord melody for guitar)
    • One transcription example

Questions? Contact Professor Reggie Thomas (reggiethomas@niu.edu).
Denial
Based on the changes of "Confirmation"

Geof Bradfield

medium up swing

\( \text{A} \quad G^7 \quad F^♯^7 \quad B^7\text{alt.} \quad E^m^7 \quad A^7 \quad D^m^7 \quad G^7(b^9) \)

\( \text{C}^7 \quad B^7 \quad E^7(b^9) \quad A^7 \quad D^7\text{alt.} \)

\( \text{G}^7 \quad F^♯^7 \quad B^7\text{alt.} \quad E^m^7 \quad A^7 \quad D^m^7 \quad G^7(b^9) \)

\( \text{C}^7 \quad B^7 \quad E^7(b^9) \quad A^7 \quad D^7(b^9) \quad G^7 \)

\( \text{D}^m^7 \quad G^7\text{alt.} \quad C^A^7 \)

\( \text{F}^m^7 \quad B^7\text{alt.} \quad E^♭^A^7 \quad D^7\text{alt.} \)

\( \text{G}^7 \quad F^♯^7 \quad B^7\text{alt.} \quad E^m^7 \quad A^7 \quad D^m^7 \quad G^7(b^9) \)

\( \text{C}^7 \quad B^7 \quad E^7(b^9) \quad A^7 \quad D^7(b^9) \quad G^7 \)
Alto Saxophone

Based on the changes of "Confirmation"

Geof Bradfield

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Piano Audition Excerpt

Quarter note - 180 or faster

©
Piano Audition Excerpt

\( E^b_{b9} \quad E^b_{b9} \quad E^b_{b9} \quad E^b_{mi7} \)

\( F^9 \quad E^9 \quad E^b_{9(5)} \quad D^b_{9} \quad C^7_{(9)} \)

\( F_{mi7} \quad D_{mi7_{(5)}} \quad G^7_{(9)} \quad C_{mi7} \quad A_{mi7_{(5)}} \quad D^7_{(9)} \)

\( E^b/G \quad G^b_{07} \quad F_{mi7} \quad F^b_{7} \quad E^b_{b9} \)
BRUSH TAPS

Drums

Dedicated to JO JONES

By LOUIE BELLSON and MARK TAYLOR
Arranged by MARK TAYLOR

EASY SWING (M = 8/4)

Solo Brushes

Fill

Solo Fill

Fill

Fill

Fill

Solo Fill

Fill

Solo Fill

Fill

Solo Fill

Fill

Solo

54 Beats

Piano Solo
Cm7  SOLOS: Bkgds. on cue

Fm7  Bb7  Ebmaj7  Ab13

Gm7  C7b9  Fm7  G7 #9

Cm7

Fm7  Bb7  Gø7  C7b9

p
Guitar, Graduate  *Undergrads may play this instead of 99° at Midnight (but not both)  

Guitar 3
Tenor
Bone 1

JUST FRIENDS
S.M. Lewis- J. Kenner/ Tom Garling

Bone 1

Swing
q = 200

A

A17

A29
(Play Backgrounds if not Soloing)