

PMEA 2021 All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble - Audition Instructions

SUBMITTABLE Time Frame- Monday 11/2/20- Tuesday 1/5/21

1. Directors who wish to have their students (grades 10-12 only) considered for selection should: Complete the application form with payment (\$12.00) online at www.pmea.net, scroll to “Conferences and Events” and then click on “PMEA All-State Information”. The Director must be a current PMEA member. ***All student applicants must upload a headshot photo - (ABOVE the SHOULDERS) labeled LAST NAME, FIRST NAME (i.e. Smith, John)***

2. The Audition selections must be submitted online via SUBMITTABLE at the PMEA Website listed above. The audition selections must be recorded from start to finish without cuts and/or splices. SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS on how to submit EACH SELECTION are listed BELOW as well as on the SUBMITTABLE Application. ***Students should face the video camera and include their entire head in the video. NO EAR BUDS or HEADPHONES are permitted to be used in the recording.*** To obtain the best audio quality, a good microphone as well as high-end computers or digital recording devices for the recording equipment are suggested.

3. No identifying clothing may be worn (i.e. no school t-shirts, no name identification, no PMEA, NafME All Eastern or National shirts).). ***Additionally, please do NOT include any identifying information (student name/school name, etc.) in the video file name or in the contents of the recording.***

4. The “Window of Opportunity” to submit begins **Monday, November 2, 2020** and ends at **11:59 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2021. A confirmation email will be sent to the address used to register with Submittable.** Please check your SPAM filters for any communications and also check with your IT Administrator if a school email address is used and no email is received.

5. The director is asked to view the file and verify the recorded audition is consistent with the student’s level of performance.

6. Although PMEA checks to ensure the videos play in the correct format and the file can be opened- PMEA is **NOT** responsible for the content repertoire of the video. **Please follow the repertoire and file labeling instructions.**

7. Students may audition on multiple voice parts. However, a separate payment and SUBMITTABLE application is required for each submission. **All requirements for EACH instrument or voice part must be met and sent on a separate upload video.**

8. Results of the 2021 PMEA All-State Jazz and Vocal Jazz Ensembles will be posted on **Friday, January 29, 2021** via the PMEA Website- www.pmea.net.

*** If selected for the 2021 PMEA Vocal Jazz Ensemble, the student will no longer be eligible for any of the other All-State Ensembles.**

*** Vocal Jazz students (including the rhythm section) are eligible to apply for NafME Eastern Division or National Honors Ensemble if applicable for any given year.**

Audition Materials for the All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble 2021

SCALES:

- Sing two (2) different scales in swing eighth notes using the syllables “doo va” or “doo ba” (may be modified depending on range), ascending and descending one octave (including the 9th on top). Tempo: Quarter note = 110
- **STARTING PITCHES**
 - Soprano low: Middle C
 - Soprano high: A (above middle C)
 - Middle low: Bb (below middle C)
 - Middle high: F (above middle C)
 - Alto low: G (below middle C)
 - Alto high: D (above middle C)
 - Tenor low: C (second space bass clef)
 - Tenor high: G (below middle C)
 - Middle low: Bb (second line bass clef)
 - Middle high: Eb (below middle C)
 - Bass low: F (below bass staff)
 - Bass high: C (second space bass clef)

AUDITION REPERTOIRE

- Sing “*I Can’t Get Started*”, found on page 5 (high version) or page 27 (low version) of *Vocal Standards – Embraceable You: 12 Standards in Singer’s Keys*, Volume 113 by Jamey Aebersold (published by Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Inc.). Sing **unaccompanied** using the lyrics in **ballad tempo**. Sing **one (1) complete chorus**. Soprano and Tenor singers should sing the high version. Alto and Bass singers should sing the low version. Middle singers may sing the high or low version or may sing in a different key - depending on what best suits your voice.
- Sing “*Love Is Here To Stay*”, found on page 9 (high version) or pages 31- (low version) of *Vocal Standards – Embraceable You: 12 Standards in Singer’s Keys*, Volume 113 by Jamey Aebersold (published by Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Inc.). **Sing two (2) choruses along with the accompaniment provided (listed below)** with the *Vocal Standards* book. The **First Chorus** should be sung with the written pitches of the melody and the lyrics. The **Second Chorus** should be sung by improvising on the melody using the lyrics. Choose either the High Voice or Low Voice part to best suit your voice part and range.
 - Accompaniment tracks:**
 - High Voice – CD #1, Track 14 (faster tempo)**
 - Low Voice – CD #2, Track 14 (faster tempo)**
- **Scat sing two (2) improvised choruses along with the accompaniment track** provided in *How to Play Jazz and Improvise*, Volume 1 by Jamey Aebersold (published by Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Inc.). **Accompaniment: Track 8 – Blues in Key of F Concert found on page 75-** (may be used from accompaniment CD or purchased from iTunes or other digital music retailer).

Vocal Jazz Auditions FAQs

Q: What is a chorus?

A: A chorus is one time through the tune. Most standards are 32 bars long with an AABA form.

Q: What does “improvising on the melody using the lyrics” mean?

A: It means that we want you to sing the lyrics but you should take liberties with the melody including singing different pitches and/or rhythms than are written on the page.

Q: What is scat singing?

A: Scat singing is vocal improvisation. The singer makes up the melody (pitches and rhythms) as they go along. So-called “nonsense syllables” are used by the singer instead of actual lyrics.

Q: What are “nonsense syllables”?

A: Instead of a scat singer trying to make up lyrics on the spot, they use syllables such as *doo, dot, dah, va, ba*, etc. to imitate the sound of wind instrument.

SUBMITTABLE RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

To access the **SUBMITTABLE RECORDING LINK**: www.pmea.net, scroll to “Conferences and Events” and then click on “PMEA All-State Information”.

READ CAREFULLY!!!!

- When uploading your headshot, please name the file with your **LAST NAME** followed by your **FIRST NAME**. Ex. - Smith, John.
- Each selection should be a **separate upload** and **NUMBERED AND LABELED AS FOLLOWS** : (Do **NOT** include **YOUR NAME** or **SCHOOL NAME**)
 - **01 Scales**
 - **02 I Can’t Get Started**
 - **03 Love is Here to Stay**
 - **04 Scat**

Tips for recordings in Submittable:

- The maximum video size is 4GB – the larger the video, the longer it will take to load.
- **An MP4 file format is suggested.**
- Small rooms with good acoustic qualities will create the best recording
- A good microphone and a good piece of recording equipment (high end computer or digital recording device) are the two things that can most improve a recording.