

# **All That Jazz – LBJ Jazz Studies Program 2008 - 2009**

The two main performing ensembles at LBJ/LASA High Schools are the Stage Band and the Jazz Ensemble. There are also two smaller combos. LBJ jazz bands have won numerous awards at jazz competitions and festivals, including the Hill Country Jazz Festival, the UT Jazz Festival, the Temple Jazz Festival, the Tarleton State Jazz Festival and the TCU Jazz Festival. Balancing academics and performance, the Jazz bands students provide an outstanding level of commitment to keep these bands sounding great! The jazz bands regularly perform more than fifteen gigs per year: Capital City Marching Festival, national education conferences, local educator group invitations, City of Austin events, lunchtime performances, elementary and middle school tours and the AISD Jazz and Pops Concert. If you love music, the Jazz band is for you!

## **Common Ways to Be in Jazz Bands**

There are many ways to participate in jazz music in the Fine Arts curriculum. The two most common ways are to enroll in one of the two classes offered during the school day: 1st period Jazz Ensemble & 3rd period Stage Band.

## **Auditions**

To enroll, students MUST audition. No student will be allowed in a band without formally auditioning for the director. Auditions are held in the spring for the following year. Students must sign-up for an audition time slot. The list of available time slots will be posted on the LBJ band website in April. Audition music will be taken from the 2008-2009 All-Region Jazz Etudes and will be available at LBJ and on-line.

## **Wind Players Policy**

It is the LBJ Band Policy that all wind players (woodwinds and brass) must be enrolled in one of the 'concert' bands: Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band. If a student wishes to be in a jazz class also, they must organize their schedule accordingly. There is no policy regarding rhythm section instruments (drums, bass, piano, guitar.)

## **Other Ways to Be in Jazz Bands**

Students who do not enroll (schedule conflict, etc.) in one of the two classes can still perform with the jazz bands. These students will audition with everyone else in May. The Jazz Ensemble and Stage Bands rehearse once a week after school, usually starting at the end of the Fall semester. Students who are in athletics or other after-school activities need to prioritize these once a week rehearsals. Attendance is required.

## **Jazz Ensemble---Function and Purpose**

The Jazz Ensemble is the advanced performance jazz band. It will include those with the most experience and ability. Students in this group must come ready to play! This group will perform at invitational events such as large conferences and banquet dinners. Students in this group will perform frequently throughout the year and must consider this before committing to joining. While it is sometimes very demanding, it is also really fun and rewarding!

### *Minimum Instrumentation for Jazz Ensemble Class:*

1 alto sax---1 tenor sax---1 bari sax  
3 trumpets---3 trombones  
only 1 piano---only 1 drummer---only 1 bass

### *Full Instrumentation for Jazz Ensemble:*

2 alto sax---2 tenor sax---1 bari sax  
4 trumpets---4 trombones  
1 piano---1 or 2 drummer/percussion---1 bass  
(Additional instruments: 1 clarinet---1 flute---1 guitar)

## Stage Band---Function and Purpose

The Stage Band is the intermediate performance jazz band. Wind players in this group will typically have less experience than those in the Jazz Ensemble. This is the training ground for young players to improve their sight-reading and ensemble skills. Learning the basics of style and increasing technical ability are the main goals. This group will also perform at invitational events.

### *Instrumentation for Stage Band Class:*

1 sax---1 trumpet---1 trombone  
1 piano---1 drummer---1 bass---1 guitar

### *Full Instrumentation for Stage Band:*

2 alto sax---2 tenor sax---1 bari sax  
4 trumpets---4 trombones  
1 piano---1 or 2 drummer/percussion---1 bass---1 guitar

**(Additional instruments: 1 clarinet---1 flute---)**

*[Note: the instrumentation of these bands is very important. For the 2008-2009 school year, there is a shift for the Stage Band **class** to focus on primarily jazz combo literature in the Fall semester. The goal of this is to create a really solid rhythm section and trio of horns. Ideally, the trumpet and trombone players in class will be the section leader in Full Stage Band. The saxophone player will likely be the lead alto or lead tenor player, depending, and will get the most opportunities to solo in Full Stage Band. These students will be responsible for helping to share what they've learned with their entire sections once after-school rehearsals begin.]*

## Common Concerts and Events

Capital City Marching Festival  
Winter Concert  
LBJ Jazz Band Dinner  
Hill Country Jazz Festival or Temple Jazz Festival or Austin High School Jazz Festival  
AISD Jazz and Pops Festival  
Spring Concert (Senior Salute)  
Other special invitations

## Suggestions and Recommendations

Saxophone players: use a jazz mouthpiece. Meyer and Jody Jazz are good brands for alto. Otto Link and Jody Jazz are good brands for tenor. Berg Larsen and Jody Jazz are good for baritone sax.

Brass players: use a different mouthpiece for jazz ONLY if your trumpet teacher approves this. If you do not have a trumpet teacher, it is highly recommended that you get one. There are several great brass teachers in Austin who can help guide you to the right embouchure and mouthpiece and style.

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### Jazz Band Liaisons:

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## **“Everything You Always Wanted to Know About LBJ Jazz But Were Afraid to Ask”**

### **When does Jazz Band start?**

The first day of school! Jazz students who auditioned in the spring are in one of two classes – Jazz Ensemble (1<sup>st</sup> period) or Stage Band (3<sup>rd</sup> period).

### **My freshman doesn't have room in her/his schedule for a jazz studies class. Does she/he have to wait till next year for jazz?**

Absolutely not! Non-class students can participate in jazz once after school rehearsals begin in November. Each jazz band rehearses once a week after school, beginning in November (that's generally after marching season has ended). Interested freshmen need to schedule an audition with Mr. East and, if accepted, *must* attend all after school rehearsals.

### **My drummer won't be in marching band. Why do I need to pay My Fair Share?**

How do you think those heads get repaired after his mad licks? All band program students benefit from My Fair Share. The Band Boosters help pay for instrument repair, clinicians, and the Jazz Music Library. My Fair Share is the best way to ensure that LBJ continues to have the best Jazz Studies program in the district.

### **Do jazz students participate in fundraising?**

Yep, it's all part of the plan. Stadium clean-up is a requirement, and other fund raisers help students pay for their share of transportation to festivals or the fabulous spring trip to New York.

### **I'm a jazz only parent. Do I have to come to Everything Day?**

Yes, and you don't have to worry, it's the natural next step in becoming part of the LBJ band family. At Everything Day, you'll take care of fees and jazz t-shirt ordering, get your specially priced advanced purchase tickets to the Jazz Dinner Dance, find out about fundraising opportunities and sign up to volunteer for Jazz Band. It's a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

### **I'm still confused. How do I find out more?**

That's easiest of all. Just call or e-mail your Jazz Band Liaisons Sally or Jan, or Mr. East. If we don't have the answers, we'll do what all jazz aficionados do. . .we'll improvise!