

WELCOME TO THE 2025-2026 JAZZ VOCAL PLACEMENT AUDITIONS!

All jazz vocal majors and principals are required to participate in ensemble placement auditions at the start of each academic year (and again in the spring semester if reassignments are needed). These auditions ensure that each singer is placed in an ensemble and applied lesson level appropriate to their current skills, musicianship, and stylistic readiness.

Placement is determined by faculty evaluation of vocal technique, jazz style interpretation, improvisation, sight-reading, and ensemble skills. This process not only supports the artistic integrity of our jazz vocal program but also provides every student with the opportunity to grow in a setting that challenges them and prepares them for the professional demands of the jazz and commercial music industry.

Participation in the placement audition process is an important step in your artistic journey. It allows our faculty to hear your current strengths, understand your musical goals, and place you in an environment where you can thrive. Whether you are singing intricate harmonies in a jazz vocal ensemble, trading improvised phrases with an instrumental combo, or developing your solo artistry in applied lessons, your placement is designed to maximize your learning, broaden your stylistic range, and prepare you for the diverse opportunities available to today's jazz vocalist. Think of this audition not merely as an evaluation, but as the first performance of the year—a chance to set the tone for your growth, collaboration, and creative exploration.

Jazz Vocal Placement Audition Requirements

1. Repertoire + Improvisation

Two contrasting jazz selections, possibly with a short improvisation section.

1. **Medium or up-tempo swing tune**
 - Include improv
 - Examples: “There Will Never Be Another You,” “All of Me,” “There Is No Greater Love.”
 2. **Ballad or contrasting feel** (rubato, Latin, waltz, or contemporary jazz)
 - One chorus melody; possibly include improvisation
 - Examples: “My Funny Valentine,” “In a Sentimental Mood,” “But Beautiful,” “Corcovado.”
- Limit each tune to ~2-3 choruses total (melody + short improv)

2. Sight-singing: 4–8 bars from a jazz standard melody - we will provide an excerpt from ensemble rep that we are currently working on already.