



DES MOINES SYMPHONY  
**ACADEMY**  
**Youth Jazz Orchestra**  
Nate Sparks, Director

### **Audition Information**

The following information provides general expectations for auditioning musicians.

#### **Horns (Saxophones, Trumpets and Trombones)**

Horn players are asked to prepare a swing soli, shout, or solo transcription excerpt from their school's jazz band repertoire or otherwise to demonstrate their ability to swing.

All saxes are highly encouraged to also play a piece of their choosing on at least Bb clarinet and/or any other doubles to demonstrate doubling capabilities, but not be required to, and reassured that their double performance can only improve, not count against their overall score.

#### **Piano, Guitar, Bass and Mallet Percussion**

Pianists, guitarists and vibraphonists are asked to demonstrate their ability to comp and bassists their ability to walk on a blues. This could be done acapella, but would be encouraged to be played with a backing track. Any solo transcriptions would be encouraged for melodic rhythm section instruments as well.

#### **Drums**

Drummers are asked to demonstrate an ability to play something in Swing, Latin, and Backbeat styles. Any big band shout excerpts or solo transcriptions are encouraged for drummers as well.

#### **All Musicians – Improvisation**

All auditioners are asked to demonstrate their ability to improvise on a Bb blues, but will be reassured that their performance in this segment could not be counted against their overall score.