AUDITION INFORMATION

To begin the audition process, please email Prof. Nathan at jazz@music.ucsb.edu ASAP in order to schedule an audition or to make other arrangements. In this email please provide the following:

1) Full name and mobile phone number.

2) Instrument.

3) If new to Jazz at UCSB, a brief description of your musical experience, specifically in jazz, including lessons taken, examples of repertoire, favorite jazz artists, etc.

All auditions will be conducted before the end of the first full week of the 2015 Fall Quarter (Friday, October 2, 2015), and will be held in person on the campus of UCSB in the Music Building, either in room 1220 (Prof. Nathan’s office) or in the drumset room, room 1214. A live audition is preferred; however, YouTube videos, self-made recordings, and other web-based media that demonstrates jazz proficiency (see below) will also be accepted.

The following instrument classes and their expectations are open for audition:

1) Melody instruments (saxophone, trumpet, trombone, violin, flute, etc): Melodic instruments must demonstrate proficiency in technique, jazz style, improvisational skills, ensemble playing, intonation, etc. Soloing over any standard jazz tune (example: “All the Things You Are”) or blues (II-V-I based blues progression) is acceptable. I would also like to hear a prepared piece that you are comfortable and familiar with, such as a transcribed jazz solo (Charlie Parker “Omnibook”), or technical bebop melody (Charlie Parker’s “Donna Lee” for instance). I will also quiz you on scale and chord knowledge, and you will be asked to demonstrate this knowledge on your instrument.

2) “Comping” instruments (piano, guitar, and vibraphone): Comping instruments must demonstrate ability to “comp” in the jazz rhythm section style. Soloing, as above, is also preferred, however less necessary and will be developed. A sense of voice leading and a knowledge of jazz chord theory, especially in II-V-I’s, is recommended.

3) Bass: Must demonstrate an ability to create “walking bass” lines over standard jazz chord progressions or jazz blues. Soloing ability is desired but not mandatory.

4) Drums: Must demonstrate an ability to keep time in a variety of jazz styles (swing, bossa/latin, ¾ jazz, rock/funk, etc). You will be asked to “trade 4’s” with yourself to demonstrate soloing, timekeeping, and creative abilities.

5) Vocalists will be auditioned once all combos are staffed. Please email Prof. Nathan ASAP if you have an interest in jazz vocals in a combo setting.

I look forward to meeting and hearing you all, and to working with you. Reminder: Mandatory first class meeting Thursday September 24, 4 PM in room 1145. Bring your instruments!!

Jon Nathan, Director, UCSB Jazz Ensembles (jazz@music.ucsb.edu)