

Bass Audition Procedures

Navy Music Program

For additional questions, contact the Audition Supervisor at 901-874-4316

Audition Requirements:

- Prepared pieces (40% of score): The bassist must perform a minimum of 3, no more than 5, prepared songs with contrasting styles like Rock/Funk, Jazz, and Latin. If an applicant wishes to do more than 3, he/she may add an additional style not demonstrated in the first 3 pieces. **All selections must be performed with backing tracks provided by the applicant.** Examples of backing tracks are Band in the Box, Abersold's and many rock backing tracks easily downloaded from the internet. The following is an example of available backing tracks.
http://www.guitarbt.com/index.php?page=dl_list
- Scales (10% of score): Applicant should be able to execute Major, Natural Minor and Mixolydian scales in 2 octaves with arpeggios following the scales.
- Sight reading (50% of score): Applicant will sight read *at performance level 3-4* selections from the Real Book/Fake Book with upper level harmony (7th chords, all qualities). This will be done with a rhythm section if one is available. The applicant will read the head, comp the changes, and play an improvised solo.

Stylistic Capability

Required capability:

- Rock/Pop (classic rock to current air play) bass lines
- Jazz – Swing/Bop, minimally must demonstrate a walking bass line constructed from chord changes with a steady quarter note pulse
- Blues: Able to construct a bass line using the 12 bar blues form
- Appropriate timbre shifts for each style
- The ability to sight read Real Book tunes. Examples should consist of easy to medium level quarter/eighth note rhythmic syncopation for reading melodies and notated bass lines

Desired capability:

- Jazz – swing/bop: Able to play melodies/head, construct bass lines and perform with an improvised solo that fits changes and style
- Rock- Recognizable bass lines from original recordings
- Funk – accurate syncopated 16th note rhythms, finger style funk, slap/pop technique. James Brown, Tower of Power, Earth Wind and Fire, etc.
- Latin (bossa/samba minimally) – appropriate bossa and samba rhythm patterns bass lines

Required Harmonic Knowledge:

- Note choices from chord changes in bass lines appropriate to style
- Must know common song forms - blues changes & Rhythm changes
- Ability to read chord symbols
- Note and rhythm recognition

Bass Example Repertoire List

Swing/Modal-Beginner

All Blues
Footprints
Maiden Voyage
Autumn Leaves
Watermelon Man

Swing/Bebop-Intermediate/Advanced

Anthropology
Boplicity
Confirmation
Donna Lee
Four Brothers
Giant Steps
Got a Match
Joy Spring

Blues Based-Beginner

Blue Train
Blue Monk
Straight, No Chaser
Now Is the Time
Billie's Bounce

Samba/Latin- Beginner

Blue Bossa
Song for My Father
One Note Samba
Recordame
Triste

Samba/Latin- Intermediate/Advanced

Captain Marvel
Desafinado
Meditation
Some Skunk Funk
Simple Samba
Spain
This Masquerade
Wave

Rock/Funk-Beginner

Don't Mess With Bill
Superstition
Sissy Strut
Limelight (Rush)

Rock/Funk-Intermediate/Advanced

Aeroplane (Flea)
The Chicken (Jaco Pastorius)
Crossroads (Jack Bruce)
Silly Putty
Teen Town
What is Hip?
YYZ

Ballads-Intermediate/Advanced

Body and Soul
Days of Wine and Roses
God Bless the Child
Misty Morning Dance
My Foolish Heart
'Round Midnight
Stardust
Stella by Starlight