The 2019-2020 MBDA 7-8 and 9-10 State Jazz Honor Bands are an opportunity for talented young musicians from across Minnesota to join together in the performance of quality jazz ensemble literature. This year we welcome Andy Nelson as the 7-8 director and Elaine Burt as the 9-10 director.

The bands will rehearse 10am - 5pm on Sunday, January 19th, 2020 at Anoka Ramsey Community College, and conclude with an informal performance for family and friends at 5pm. The bands will also perform the morning of Friday, February 14th, 2019 at the Minneapolis Convention Center as a part of the MMEA Midwinter Clinic. Please have students and families check their calendars BEFORE submitting auditions to ensure that both of these dates are available, as attendance at all events is mandatory.

Eligible students are in grades 7-10, must be involved in their MN school band and jazz band program during the year of audition, and have directors who are current, paid members of MBDA at the time of audition submission. Students are selected based on top audition results, but it is also the intent of MBDA to represent as many schools across Minnesota as possible each year.

All student auditions will be submitted via mp3 recording. The window for submitting auditions is Oct. 28 - Nov. 4, 2019.

Notification of acceptance will be available on the MBDA website on or before Dec. 6, 2019. If selected for the MBDA Jazz Honor Bands, students will be expected to prepare music ahead of time and attend all scheduled rehearsals and activities. A participation fee of $65.00 per student will cover expenses and the cost of lunch at the Sunday rehearsal. Parents are responsible for transportation, lodging, and supervision at all other times during the Honor Band rehearsals and pre- and post-performance.

**AUDITION PROCESS**

Audition etudes, scales, and backing tracks for improvisation can be accessed by your band director on the MBDA website. Note - Directors must be current, paid members to access this info.

**When preparing to record your audition:**

- Use separate tracks for each element. Please do NOT record all audition materials together in one track.
- Each particular scale and etude must be recorded in one take, not edited and spliced together.
Record your audition in the following order:

- Record the scales for your instrument - one track per scale.
- Perform the two etudes for your instrument (Drums – two etudes and three styles. Bass- two etudes).
- OPTIONAL: Record the improvisation etude with the accompaniment, available on the MBDA website. Improvisation skill score may be used to determine solo(s) for the performance or used in the event of a tied score. There is no improvisation track for bass and drums.

See the audition rubric included in your audition packet or on the MBDA website for more specific details about how the judges will evaluate your audition.

Directors:

Directors may begin filling out the student entry form and submitting recordings at the beginning of the submission window. Recordings must be uploaded as mp3s. You will receive a confirmation email for each student that you are entering for consideration in the MBDA State Honor Jazz Band. This email will include a submission code - one code per student - provide this to your student so their family can complete online payment for the audition. Check your school’s email filters to make sure email from mbda.org isn’t landing in your junk mail.

Students:

Provide fee of $10 payable to MBDA by check or online at www.mbda.org/payments to complete your audition. Your director will provide you a code to enter along with your submission to ensure your payment is matched to your audition!

Audition recordings must be uploaded by 8:00 pm Monday, November 4, 2019. Student payments for auditions may be submitted after the close of the audition recording upload window.

Please direct questions about the 7-8 Jazz Honor Band to Sarah Minette - sarah.minette@stthomas.edu

Please direct questions about the 9-10 Jazz Honor Band to Ben Bussey - benjamin.bussey@gmail.com