

University of Rochester – Jazz Combo Auditions

Auditions for the Jazz Combos for Fall 2026 will be via video recording, which must be submitted no later than August 31, 2026 at 11:59PM EST.

Auditions should begin by stating your name, year, instrument, and what you will be performing. Auditions may be performed solo, with a backing track, or live group and must not be edited or interrupted. Specific requirements for different instruments are listed below.

Note: Auditions may be on instruments that are not conventional in the jazz combo setting (cello, french horn, etc.) if proficiency on the instrument is shown and meets the criteria for the audition.

Horns: Perform a jazz standard in any appropriate style playing the melody one time through followed by two choruses of improvisation. If a blues is selected to be performed, play the melody twice through and follow with four choruses of improvisation.

Comping instruments: Perform a jazz standard in any appropriate style playing the melody one time through followed by one chorus of comping and one chorus of improvisation. If a blues is selected to be performed, play the melody once through and follow with one chorus of comping and two choruses of improvisation.

Bass: Perform a jazz standard in any appropriate style playing the melody one time through followed by one chorus of a walking bass line and one chorus of improvisation. If a blues is selected to be performed, play the melody once through and follow with one chorus of a walking bass line and two choruses of improvisation.

Drum set: Demonstrate three varied grooves (swing, shuffle, samba, bossa nova, funk, rock, etc.) of your choice. Perform a jazz standard with a backing track or melody with one chorus of comping and one chorus of improvisation **OR** perform a 32-bar drum set solo in a jazz style of your choice.

Auditions can be emailed to Mr. Matt Erman merman@ur.rochester.edu **no later than August 31, 2026 at 11:59PM EST.** Should recordings via email cause problems due to file sizes they can also be uploaded to YouTube (set as "unlisted") and, email the video's URL / web address to Mr. Erman. Should there be any questions about the process of auditions or questions pertaining to the jazz combos, feel free to email Mr. Erman.