

VOCAL JAZZ AUDITION INFORMATION PACKET

Thank you for your auditioning for Vocal Jazz! The first audition is Tuesday, August 28, 2018 in BUIK RECITAL HALL. Please bring a prepared non-classical solo. Sign up for an audition time on the link below and print an audition form to bring to your first audition.

Auditions are held in Buik Recital Hall in the Music Building.

<https://www.elmhurst.edu/academics/departments/music/performing-ensembles/choral-ensembles/auditions/>

After the initial solo audition, you may be invited to a callback. The callback music to and a recording are also online at the same link. Please print it and bring with you if you make callbacks. Practice it ahead of time!

Elmhurst College Vocal Jazz Ensemble “Late Night Blues” & Blue Callbacks

Date: Thursday, August 30, 2018. Place: Room 200 Time: 2:50-4:30p.m.

There may be additional callbacks if necessary.

To answer some questions you may have...

How many members will be selected for the group?

Last year there were 13 singers and a band in **Late Night Blues**. It has varied in size from approx. 10 to 16 singers. The second vocal jazz group is called “**Blue**”. **Blue** had 16 singers last year. They rehearse the same time as **Late Night Blues** and the course can be taken for credit or non-credit as well. Gayle Bisesi will direct **Blue**.

What do I need to do for VJ callbacks on Thursday?

Come prepared with your notes learned for the callback pieces. It doesn't need to be memorized. You will sing in small mixed groups and will be listened to as a section for blend. You may also be asked to sing your part alone. We may also go around in a circle and try some improvisation to 12 bar blues!

After we listen to everyone on all music, there may be a 1st cut. This may mean you have been selected for BLUE so please check the choral board outside of Room 200 to see if you have made one of the vocal jazz groups. The remaining singers will stay and be heard in various combinations.

HELPFUL SESSIONS:

Students auditioning for vocal jazz often practice on the 3rd floor of the music building in the practice rooms. ALL SINGERS ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND SOME OF THESE PRACTICE REHEARSALS. Some singers who have been in the group previously who are re-auditioning may also be there and will be happy to sing with you. Try to make those rehearsals.... it will help tremendously. Usually they are during the lunch hour and evenings. This will give you a chance to hear what the other parts sound like and even practice blending with others. Being able to blend, take direction and work well with others is important for being a member in the vocal jazz groups.

Please practice your music. Don't give up. Come in and do the best you can. The level of preparation you demonstrate at this call back represents how hard you are willing to work during the year. You will feel more confident if you are well prepared. You will be judged on your preparation, your attitude, your work ethic, your talent and how well you get along with others. Good luck! Just be yourself and let your talent shine through!

If you have any questions, please email Susanmo@elmhurst.edu.

Callback music for Thursday:

Groovin' Hard

Arr. Dave Barduhn

This med. swing chart is a classic fun tune. Please learn the letter C to the first measure of letter F. (If time permits...Letter F-G is a scat section that is optional). Everyone will be listened to for note accuracy, blend, intonation, swing feel, ability to maintain your part, tone quality, and phrasing. Try not to rush or push the sound and feel a groove with the rest of the group. Watch cut offs. All word changes on recording are good! Have fun! Here is an example of Groove for Thought on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4usCJs_9s8&feature=youtu.be.

I'll Be Seeing You

Arr. Phil Mattson

Learn this beautiful ballad from letter B to the end. Connect the notes to create musical phrases. Sing with an "inside" smile in your sound! Please work on using no vibrato on the entire piece because of the voicings. Be sensitive to the lyric. Accuracy of notes, rhythms, musicianship, attention to expressiveness and intonation will be listened for as well as your tone quality. Work on blending within your section and the ensemble. Here is a recording by the Phil Mattson Singers:

<https://youtu.be/OxtXq1IOUZo>

Whisper Your Name

Arr. Kerry Marsh

This funk (lightly swung 8th notes) chart is a fun new chart! Learn Meas. 13-30. You will be listened to for sense of time feel, style, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, blend and note accuracy. Really listen carefully and sing along to a recording made by Kerry Marsh for style, color and inflections. Careful not to rush...try to "lay back" (not ahead of the beat) so you create a pocket of groove.

Be confident and have fun with this one! Smile into your sound and use some personality! You can listen to the song on Kerry's website!

<http://www.kerrymarshvocaljazz.com/media/scoreflipper/ScoreFlipper.html?sfParam=whisperyourname>

Improvisation

For the scat part of the audition...you will just scat over 12 bar blues do what comes naturally to your voice quality as a soloist ...remember to provide space. Don't worry if you don't have experience doing this! Listen to the chord changes underneath!

Good luck at callbacks! Thank you for auditioning!

Susan Moninger, Professor of Music

Director of Student Choral Activities

Director, Elmhurst College Vocal Jazz Ensemble, "Late Night Blues"