



the association for music in international schools • church farm house • north lotham • diss • norfolk • ip22 2lp • england  
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website: <http://amis-online.org>

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## Audition Instructions for The AMIS International Honor Jazz Band Festival

It's never too soon to start preparing students for Honor Jazz Band auditions. We know it's hard to push this festival in the spring with exams of all sorts coming up soon after the International Honor Band. BUT...experience shows that you and your students only get busier and miss the audition deadline. Try to encourage your very best jazz players to start preparing the auditions NOW!

There will continue to be opportunities for wind and brass players to perform with combos. For this to be successful, students must have a certain level of improvisational skill. Therefore, all wind and brass players wishing to participate in a combo, and **all** piano, guitar, and bass players, **MUST** perform the improvisation segment of the audition. Improvisations will be used by the audition committee to make appropriate combo placements, but students of varying improvisational abilities can be accepted into the festival.

As suggested at last year's festival, this year there will also be the opportunity for vocalists to audition. These vocal auditions are open to all singers, not just instrumentalists who also sing. An additional audition piece, *I'm Beginning To See the Light*, is available on the AMIS web site in three keys. Singers should sing the song through twice, the first time through as the lead sheet. The second chorus should include a scat improvisation through the two A sections - 16 bars, returning to the melody and lyrics for the bridge and the final section.

Wind and brass players wishing only to participate in the big band are not required to submit an improvisation.

Fine jazz musicians who enter our schools for the first time in September will unfortunately not be eligible for this festival unless a vacancy occurs due to someone unexpectedly moving between audition time and the festival date, or due to a particular section not attracting sufficiently experienced candidates.

### **What the audition CD contains:**

1. General instructions
2. Suggested material to send to parents and students
3. Music to be read and played by all trumpets, trombones, and saxes
4. Music to be used for rhythm section auditions, students wishing to solo. Please do not use this vocal material on the CD— use the files from the AMIS web site.
5. Backing tracks for the various sets of audition materials

Audition instructions and certain materials can also be found on the AMIS web site at <http://amis-online.org.uk> under the Auditions tab.

The Online Track List and the Audition List must be completed and printed copies must accompany your auditions to arrive by 30 April, 2007. Please send all auditions to .

Richard Hein  
ACS Hillingdon International School  
108 Vine Lane  
Hillingdon, Uxbridge  
Middlesex UB10 0BE  
United Kingdom

Do not send any auditions to  
Church Farm House as they will not be evaluated.  
Late Auditions Can Not Be Considered

## General Instructions

1. Only students who will be in grades 9-13 during the school year in which the festival occurs and who are members of their school's musical groups or are in good standing with the school music department are eligible to audition.
2. Use quality cassette tapes, cds or minidisks. Please do not over edit, especially in the middle of an excerpt. Be sure to include the printed Online Track List of tracks for cds and minidisks.
3. CD's and minidisks usually present a better quality of sound than cassettes.
4. Please send one recording for each group of instruments (i.e. all saxophones on one recording, all trumpets on one recording, all trombones on one recording, all rhythm section players on one recording.)
5. Please **CLEARLY LABEL your recordings** with the full name of your school and with the full names and audition instrument of each student.
6. Each student should clearly announce his or her instrument and the audition number.  
"I am trombone number 2."
7. A student auditioning on an instrument is eligible to audition as a vocalist.
8. The metronome should be audibly ticking except when recording using the backing cd. If a student needs to use a slower tempo, please announce this tempo when recording the audition.
9. On the Audition List please list all your students **in the order they appear on each recording, listing full name properly spelled, instrument, and current grade.** Please write a few notes about your perception of the student as a jazz musician. Also rate students on their reading ability (1-5 with 5 being the highest).

A complete audition packet will have one cd for each group of instruments. Each CD/minidisk/tape will be accompanied with a printed copy of the Online Track List and Entries Form and a printed copy of the Audition List.

Some appropriate jazz listening suggestions from Jim Yarnell, Rick Hein, Bob Rieger and Jon Hodge are available on the AMIS website at <http://amis-online.org.uk/jazz/index.html> Most of these works can be found in the jazz section of your local music store or from online sources such as Amazon. Point your students here to get an idea of what a trumpeter, trombonist, tenor saxophonist and rhythm section player think are some of the standards of the jazz repertoire.

Below is a guide to some of the more jazz specific terms used in the audition materials.

- Comp* accompany with chords in appropriate rhythmic style, possibly with light fills at the ends of phrases.
- Walk* “walking bass” pattern, supporting rhythm, possibly outlining chord structures and filling in scale steps
- Time* play in appropriate rhythmic style, possibly with light fills or pushes at the end of phrases
- Solo* play a stylistically appropriate solo section, using scales appropriate to the chords indicated. Pianists might play chords in the left hand while improvising a melodic pattern in the right or use block chords. Guitarists might use a stylistically appropriate mixture of chords and melody.
- Scat* vocal improvisation using nonsense syllables (bah dah, bat n doo-yah, and so on)

The audition materials on the audition CD are to be used in rotation! Be sure you use the correct set of audition materials for the year for which you are submitting auditions.

Rotation of the audition materials is as follows:

Use Set B for the auditions due in April 2007 for the HJB Festival held in the Autumn of 2007.

- Set A 2006, 2009
- Set B 2007, 2010
- Set C 2008, 2011