

**Dear Parents,**

It is a pleasure to invite your students to participate in the **Durham Jazz Workshop 2018/19 school year ensemble program**. Our goal is to provide your kids an exceptional learning experience in a friendly, low stress setting. Both our small combos and big bands will challenge students to reach above their comfort zone while learning music from the classic jazz repertoire and making friends with other students from around the Triangle who share a common interest in music.

The DJW instructors are some of the best area performers/teachers who excel at motivating students to explore the music they love so much.

**We will hold placement auditions on Saturday, August 25.** ALL Students must fill out the DJW [Registration Form](#) after which you can choose an audition time on our [AUDITION SIGN UP Doodle Poll](#).

Participation in ensembles is for the entire school year beginning on September 8 (combos) and September 9 (big bands and combos). The final concerts will be at the end of April (\*\*big bands will probably do the NCSSM Jazz Festival on May 10/11, 2019)

**Ensembles:**

- **Big Bands** rehearsals are on Sundays with one group meeting from 1-2:30pm and a second group from 3-4:30pm.
- **Combos** meet on Saturday or Sunday afternoons depending on the group. 1-2:30pm or 2:30-4pm.
- If students are accepted into the program, they can choose to do either a big band or combo or both. The DJW places students into the appropriate level group. We have beginner to advanced level ensembles. \*\*\*NOTE: a beginner jazz student shouldn't be confused with a beginning instrumentalist. Students should have at least several years of experience playing their instrument and/or show a strong desire to improve/practice.

**Attendance:** Once placed into an ensemble, students are expected to make all regular rehearsals and scheduled events. We understand that illness or other conflicts can occasionally arise, but making rehearsals should be the priority.

**Ages:** Our ensembles are open to middle and high school students. Middle school students should be fairly advanced for their grade level.

**Tuition:** The Big Band participation fee is \$350 per semester (\$700 yr). The Combo fee is \$400 per semester (\$800 yr). Payments can be made by check made out to the Durham Jazz Workshop or by cc'd or by PayPal using our business email: [djazzworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:djazzworkshop@gmail.com). Payments can be made for the semester or year or smaller increments if needed and are due on the first rehearsal of the season. (Fall: 9/8, 9/9 and Winter/Spring: 1/19, 1/20)

**Scholarships:** The DJW offers financial aid to students who qualify. See our [Scholarship Page](#) for more information and application.

**Performances:** Both the combos and big bands will do several performances per semester. Performances generally take place at the DJW during the regularly scheduled ensemble time. The big bands are looking at doing a performance every 4th Sunday at the workshop.

**Festivals:** The DJW will register one or both big bands and several combos to participate in the UNC-CH Jazz Festival (February tbd), Elon Jazz Festival (February tbd) and the NCSSM/Jim Ketch Jazz Festival, which the DJW co-sponsors (May 10/11, 2019). We are also planning to bring in a guest artist each season to work and play with the big band students on a select rehearsal day.

**Ensemble Philosophy:** We want to enrich students lives with the power of music and keep them engaged by playing a wide variety of arrangements (big bands) and songs (combos). Students will be constantly challenged with reading new music in the big bands rehearsals and sometimes learning new songs by ear in the combos as well as reading lead sheets.

**Calendar:**

- Audition: Saturday Aug. 25. The audition will last no more than 10min. Slots will be available from 9am-4pm. [Contact us](#) if alternative day is needed for an audition.
- First rehearsals: Combos - Sept. 8 or 9, Big Bands - Sept. 9
- December 8-9 is the final Concert weekend of the fall semester
- Winter/Spring semester begins on the weekend of January 19-20

**Audition Requirements:**

1. Students are to play the Charlie Parker song "Yardbird Suite". We will post the C, Bb, Eb and bass clef versions here. \*\*\* Pianists/Guitarists should prepare melody as well as be able to "comp" over the changes. Bassists should prepare the melody as well as walk a bass line over the chords if able (not required).
2. Drummers should demonstrate medium swing, uptempo swing, latin,  $\frac{3}{4}$  and ballad grooves.
3. Students will then be asked to improvise if they know how (not required). They can choose to improvise on Yardbird Suite or over a Bb Blues.
4. Students will be asked to sight read a short excerpt from a big band chart or lead sheet that we will provide.

We will notify students within a week of the audition which big band and/or combo they have been placed in.

Contact [djazzworkshop@gmail.com](mailto:djazzworkshop@gmail.com) with any questions.



