

# Audition Requirements for Classical Guitar, Jazz Guitar, & Jazz Bass

*The Music Department at Towson University*

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## *Classical Guitar*

### ***Bachelor of Music in Performance***

- Major scales to four sharps and one flat, and A, D, and E harmonic and melodic minor scales from memory throughout range of first position
- Sight read single melody line
- Solo of applicant's choice—must be performed on classical guitar and demonstrate proficiency in classical guitar technique

### ***Bachelor of Science in Music Education***

### ***Bachelor of Music in Composition***

The audition must be performed on a traditional nylon-string classical guitar and demonstrate knowledge of and competency in classical guitar technique:

- Major scales to four sharps
- Harmonic minor scales in A, D, and E
- Sight reading of single note melody line
- Solo of applicant's choice

## Jazz Guitar

### ***Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition***

#### **Requirements, as applicable, for Jazz Applicants**

- All major scales memorized, two octaves where possible, in one consistent format determined by candidate
- A memorized two octave chromatic scale starting on any pitch, determined by the auditioner, displaying the command of the instrument's range
- Sight reading chosen by the Jazz/Commercial faculty
  - The ability to sight read simple melodies and chord progressions is essential to the success of a candidate for a Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz/Commercial music. Applicants who cannot read music must learn to do so before auditioning.
- Demonstrate good pitch matching either on the instrument or by vocalization
- Interview

#### **Prepared Selections for Jazz Guitar**

- Perform the audition on an electric guitar and bring a patch cord. An amplifier will be provided. Applicants should NOT bring an amplifier.
- Prepared chord-melody solo of a standard tune using chord forms or counterpoint. Example: Barry Galbraith *Guitar Solos*, Mel Bay Pub.
- Sight-reading melodies and chord progression such as those found in the beginning pages of William Leavitt, *Melodic Rhythms for Guitar*. Berklee Press.
- Improvise over a recording of a chord progression accompaniment such as blues or a standard tune. Applicants should bring a pre-recorded track in CD or flash drive format. The track may be a professional product such as Jamey Aebersold or self-recorded by the applicant (it is useful but not necessary to have a full rhythm section on the recording).

## Jazz Bass (electric or acoustic)

### ***Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition***

#### ***Prepared Selections for Jazz Bass***

- Franz Simandal, Book 1 (Fisher Ed.) p. 32, No. 8 (acoustic bass only)
- Bob Mintzer, “14 Jazz & Funk Etudes” (for bass clef instruments) electric bass. Applicant should prepare a selection of his/her choice from this collection.
- One piece of the applicant’s choice (head, walk, and solo)

#### ***Standards for Jazz Candidates***

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Performance are expected to demonstrate technical proficiency, musical expression and improvisational skills. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate the potential to succeed and excel in the field of music.

Candidates for the Bachelor of Music in Jazz/Commercial Composition must display evidence of promise as a creative composer. Additionally, candidates must demonstrate proficiency in at least one area of performance (must pass Department of Music audition in candidate’s primary performance area). Composition candidates must submit a portfolio of completed compositions by October 1 for consideration for the spring semester and by February 1 for the fall semester. Details can be found on the Department of Music website on the composition web page.

It is expected that all Jazz applicants be prepared for the rigors of the music curriculum through dedicated and continued study of their primary instrument with a qualified private instructor provided by the university.