



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 26-28, 2018**

**Building a Middle School
Jazz Program**

**CLINICIANS:
James Hairston, Raul Escobedo**

**Demonstration Group: Lamar MS The Jazz
Factory**

Building a Middle School Jazz Program

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Jazz Factory

Saxophones

Will Sharp
Steph Gallegos
Jake Yopez
Oliver Boyd
Roan Alonzo

Trombones

Noam Kay
Cal Soisson
Reagan Flynn
Harrison Allard

Trumpets

Dante Koffler
Noah Wrytzen
Jake Batson
Max Laktas
Caleb Andrews
Luke Rashid

Rhythm Section

Huck Langford
Oliver Harrington
Evan Bookout
Nate Dart
Vyktorya Velasquez
Jude Brandimarte
Emma Mattie

Performance

Five Minutes a Day Jazz Warm-Ups - Andy Clark
All of Me - arr. Rick Stizel
I Feel Good - arr. Jerry Nowak
Queiro Mas - Mike Carubia

About the Jazz Factory

The Jazz Factory was an invited ensemble at the 69th Annual Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois; they were an invited ensemble at the 8th annual Jazz Education Network Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana; they are the current Grand Champions at the Taft High School Jazz Festival in San Antonio, Texas; the Georgetown Jazz Festival Grand Champions for 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016. They have received superior ratings at the Taft Jazz Festival, Texas Music Festival, Hill Country Jazz Festival, Georgetown Jazz Festival, Director's Choice Alamo and the South Texas Jazz Festival. In 2013 and 2015, they were the recipients of the Mark of Excellence National Jazz Honors – National Winners; in 2014 and 2017 they were the recipients of the Mark of Excellence National Jazz Honors - Commended Winners. Students in the Jazz Factory perform 8-10 concerts per school year.

Scheduling

Enrollment into the Jazz Factory is by audition only. The class is opened to all 7th and 8th grade students that are currently enrolled in Band. The class is a year long elective, in which students are required to double block with their concert band. Students in the Jazz Factory attend weekly afternoon sectionals and are encouraged to take private lessons.

Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy is on a traditional block schedule (ABABA; ABABB). Students at Lamar Middle School & Fine Arts Academy are given the opportunity to take up to 4 electives and 4 core classes.

The Jazz Factory class is by audition only, the auditions occur in late April. Music is released on/ or around April 1st and students are given 3 weeks to prepare. The audition consists of 3 parts: Bb Blues Scale, Prepared Etude and Improvisation.

Recruitment & Gigs

Recruitment for the Jazz Factory begins in elementary. Students planning to attend Lamar MS have already made the decision that they want to try out for the Jazz Factory. Students begin learning piano, bass, guitar and drum-set as early as 2nd grade.

Why? The Jazz Factory is an active performing ensemble. Each year the ensemble performs 8-10 concerts and travels to at least one Jazz Festival. Scheduling gigs and exposing your ensemble is essential to recruiting and retaining students.


Gigs:

- Performance at feeder schools
- Jazz Festival (Spring time)
- Lunchtime performance on campus - The class is scheduling during the lunch period so the ensemble can perform for the student body.
- Local restaurants or shopping mall - Ask band parents for connections, this could also be a fundraiser.
- December - Holiday Jazz Gigs, we learn about 10 Jazz Holiday charts that are performed at company holiday parties, hotels, shopping centers and at our annual Nigh of Jazz Fundraiser (Dinner and Jazz).
- Local conferences and conventions - Once your ensemble is established locally, conferences and conventions may call on your ensemble to perform during their lunch hour.

Jazz Vocabulary & Style

Jazz Vocabulary is essential in your ensemble. Students should have a clear understanding on which syllable corresponds with the written accent.


JAZZ ARTICULATION/NOTATION GLOSSARY

Long Accent  Play with a strong attack, then sustain the note for its full value.

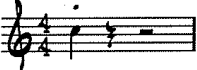
Dah

Short Accent  Play the note short with a strong attack.

Dot

Tenuto  Sustain the note for its full value. Do not accent the attack.

Doo

Staccato  Play the note short. Do not accent the attack.

Dit

Standard of Excellence Jazz Ensemble Method - Dean Sorenson & Bruce Pearson

Combos

Small group jazz is an integral part of the curriculum. Jazz Combos give students an opportunity to improvise and learn standard tunes in a smaller setting. Our Ensemble has 4 separate combo groups and 1 rhythm section group. Our best players are paired up with inexperienced players to give all the players an opportunity to excel within their group. Band directors should help *coach* (not teach) the combos during class.

Jazz Combos can be used for small gigs throughout your city. For example, the Jazz Factory was asked to perform at the SXSW Edu Conference but the entire ensemble would not fit on the stage, thus enters the Jazz Combo.