



PIANIST Audition for “Celebration” The Bellevue College Jazz Singers

To Audition Students should complete the following:

PRE-SCREENING (Phase 1)

1. Complete a “Celebration” Bellevue College Jazz Singers Application. Select the “PIANIST” audition materials at <https://www.bellevuecollege.edu/music/>.

2. Upload a video screening recording comprised of two jazz song selections - one slow (Ballad) , one medium or fast – visit this site for ideas: <https://www.jazzstandards.com/compositions/index.htm>.

VIDEO INSTRUCTIONS

- Videos should be good to high quality and can be submitted as a Youtube LINK (Recommended) or as an upload to talmli@bellevuecollege.edu

Please be sure the audio balance between your instrument and backing tracks or Rhythm Section is well balanced. (Many students record on their phone, Ipad or laptop).

LIVE VIRTUAL AUDITION (Phase 2 - After Video Pre-Screening)

3. Based on your pre-screening video, you may be invited to perform a live virtual audition on Zoom.

If you receive an invitation to perform a live virtual audition, you should be prepared to do the following:

PERFORM

- Perform one medium swing tempo song, preferably from the standard jazz repertoire -- see this site for ideas: <https://www.jazzstandards.com/compositions/index.htm>.

You will either perform this with a backing track of some kind (pre-recorded accompaniment or iRealPro, for example) or you may have live accompaniment if you prefer (audio levels must be thoroughly checked to favor your instrument)

Play one ballad (jazz straight 8th ballad, slow bossa nova, very slow swing feel, etc.)

*Selections should be different than your video audition.

- Sight read short rhythmic and melodic examples
- Respond to aural testing (tonal memory, chord tone recognition, etc.)
- Play requested Major and minor scales in both hands.

INTERVIEW

Start now, making a list of questions that you would like to ask during your interview. There really aren't any questions that you could ask that aren't relevant, so feel comfortable in asking.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

Please carefully choose who you ask to write a letter of support for your audition. For each person you asked to have written on your behalf, please give them enough ADVANCE NOTICE to complete their recommendation. It is **your** responsibility to see to it that your letters are completed and sent electronically AT LEAST TWO DAYS PRIOR TO YOUR ZOOM AUDITION. Good people to ask are former teachers, coaches, and present private instructors, etcetera.

Please have recommendations emailed c/o talmli@bellevuecollege.edu

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have questions in advance of your audition, please contact Tom Almlı, Director of Celebration (BC Jazz Singers) and BC Chamber Singers at talmli@bellevuecollege.edu or (425)564-2089.

FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) About the Application & Audition Process:

What is the deadline for submitting my application?

Preference will be given to video applications received by June 1 prior to the upcoming academic year. You may apply after this deadline at any point – including over summer – but we recommend that you submit your pre-screening materials by June 1.

Someone told me that for my pre-screening recordings, I had to prepare classical songs to play in addition to jazz songs; is that true?

No! Classical repertoire is not required at any stage of the audition process.

For my pre-screening recordings, can I just send audio from a live concert?

No. We absolutely require a video recording, and your application may be delayed while we contact you to submit video, so please don't submit audio recordings!

Can you help advise me on what songs should play on the pre-screening video?

We don't give advice on what songs to play! The requirement is that you have two pieces of contrasting tempo, one slow and one medium to fast, and we would prefer to hear standard jazz song selections, for example: a jazz ballad and a medium swing selection. Again, this link is helpful for many people who are unsure about song choice: <http://www.jazzstandards.com/compositions/index.htm> You should choose a song you really love, since we're looking to see your style and your personality in your delivery, which usually happens most naturally on a song that you really enjoy singing and with which you're very comfortable.

Can I play with pre-recorded (karaoke) tracks for my pre-screening video or does it have to be a live accompanist?

Yes! You may use pre-recorded tracks for a pre-screening video including IRealPro, Band-in-aBox, Jamey Abersold, Karaoke Tracks and so forth.

Can I play the same songs at the live audition that I played on the pre-screening video?

No! Please prepare new songs (Contrasting from your video pre-screening) to play.

Do I need to be a great improviser to get into your program?

No. Improvisation is part of our curriculum, but is not something that we use exclusively to determine

admission status. At the live audition, you may either prepare to improvise within one of your songs or we'll ask you to do so over a 12-bar blues chord progression

I have additional questions. Who should I contact?

Please contact Tom Almli with additional questions at talmli@bellevuecollege.edu or (425)564-2089.