

## ATSSB Jazz Audition Tips for Students – 2025-2026

- 1 – Acquire the Set E music for the 2025-2026 auditions. Your band director can purchase this music from the ATSSB website - [Year E Jazz Music – Association of Texas Small School Bands](#)
- 2 – The music for your instrument will explain what portion to play for the audition. Be careful to audition using the music with “Use This Part for Audition” on the top left.

**ALTO SAXOPHONE**  
**USE THIS PART FOR AUDITION**

**ATSSB ALL STATE JAZZ**  
**AUDITION SET "E", CHART NO. 1**

**BLUE NEWS**

For audition: play from the beginning through measure 36

MED. SWING ♩ = 150

13

EARL (BUDDY) MATTEI - ASCAP

- 3 – Practice with the CD backing tracks. Your director should have these available for you. Don’t forget to use the tuning track. For the Area recording, you **MUST** perform with the backing tracks.
- 4 – Bass players may use an electric bass or upright bass. Tuning is important!
- 5 – Amp style and settings for guitar and bass should be set for a good jazz sound. EQ is usually set flat or low, and the treble/mid/bass knobs are in the middle to start. Articulation is important in jazz music, so experiment with settings on your amp and guitar to get the cleanest tone that’s stylistically accurate.
- 6 – Drums should be tuned for jazz playing, which is a little different than rock drum sets. Jazz kits are typically tuned higher than the deeper sounding sets used for rock. The ride cymbals for jazz are typically darker and warmer. The hi-hat sound is typically “woody” or dry sounding.
- 7 – For the improv piece, the tune this year is Funkus Improvitus. If you’re new to improvisation, you might want to practice the solo section in loops, focusing first on the chord tones, then connecting the chord tones from one chord to the next chord to create a melody. Don’t forget about tone, articulation, melody, and style! Video tutorial will be added to our YouTube channel soon!
- 8 – The best place to start for students is **YOUR BAND DIRECTOR!** If they don’t have the answer to your question, they will certainly find someone who does!