

## 2025 Eau Claire Jazz Festival Rules & Regulations

### I. ENSEMBLE CLASS

#### A. NON-COMPETITIVE:

- All Modern Band ensembles will be non-competitive.
- High School, Middle School and College ensembles may choose to be non-competitive or competitive. Non-Competitive Ensembles will have a minimum of two judges but will not be compared against other schools.
- Each non-competitive ensemble will have the option to select either an additional 30-minute adjudication or sight-reading experience.
  - a) \*\*Music/Difficulty level can be adapted to provide a comfortable and nurturing experience)
- Members of non-competitive ensembles are eligible for solo awards, but are not eligible to perform on the Concert Series.

#### B. COMPETITIVE:

- High School, Middle School and College ensembles may choose this category.
- Competitive ensembles will have three adjudicators and must complete a sight reading component (2 adjudicators for prepared performance and 1 adjudicator for sight reading). High School ensembles will compete in a class determined by the school size. Classes will be determined as follows:
  - AA: Over 1500 students
  - A: 1100-1499 students
  - B: 600-1099 students
  - C: under 600 students
  - D: under 400 students

### II. CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

#### A. BIG BAND

- An instrumental ensemble consisting of 10 or more musicians, that host music in the traditional jazz-era.

B. COMBO

- An instrumental ensemble consisting of 3 to 9 musicians.

C. MODERN BAND

- Instrumental/vocal ensembles that don't fit into the traditional Big Band/Combo model. They include pop/rock/R&B/country, guitar ensembles, DJ's, hip hop artists, singer/songwriters, bluegrass groups, Mariachi Bands and more.

III. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

A. PERFORMANCE TIME

- All bands will be allotted **30 minutes**
  - a) This includes set-up, tuning, performance, critiques, and tear-down.

B. PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Competitive groups are encouraged to perform **three charts**. Selections should include swing, ballad, Latin, or contemporary styles.
- Non-Competitive Ensembles are encouraged to “Come As You Are” and perform as little, or as much as you’d like! Our panel of adjudicators are trained and have extensive experience in curating a positive experience for each and every skill-level.

C. CRITIQUES

- The adjudicators will be focusing on the following categories:

| Artistic Merit       | Technical Merit              |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| Style/Interpretation | Time and Rhythm              |
| Musicality           | Technique/Diction/Musicality |
| Improvisation        | Intonation                   |
| Presentation         | Presentation                 |

- Competitive ensembles: The performance component will be worth **75% of the total score**. The sight reading component will be **worth 25%**.
- Non-Competitive ensembles: No scoring is applied or included

#### D. ADJUDICATION

- All bands will be adjudicated on overall performance and will receive critiques from two performance adjudicators and one sight reading adjudicator (if competitive big band).
- Adjudicators will work with ensembles as time permits within their competitive category or non-competitive category.
  - a) Competitive Ensembles are encouraged to perform for 15 minutes, leaving enough time for adjudicators to work with your group.
  - b) Non-Competitive Ensembles are encouraged to “Come As You Are” and perform as little, or as much as you’d like! Our panel of adjudicators are trained and have extensive experience in curating a positive experience for each and every skill-level.

#### E. SIGHT READING

- The sight reading portion will be held immediately after a band’s performance.
- For competitive big bands, the sight reading is equivalent to 25% of your total score.
- Sight Reading Rules:
  - a) No one may look at the parts until the adjudicator gives instructions.
  - b) Once musicians are set up, the director may look at the score for one minute. At the end of that minute, the director can then signal the band members that they may also look at their parts. The director may go over parts with the members for four minutes (singing, clapping, talking, etc.), but no playing is to be done.
  - c) At the end of the four minutes, the selection is to be played through without pause.

#### F. MUSICAL SCORES

- **Scores (full or condensed) of all charts should be provided to all adjudicators.**
  - a) There will be two adjudicators at each performance site, so please have two copies of your score available for them

#### IV. College, High School, and Middle School Big Band/Combo Honor Band Winners

##### A. HONOR BANDS

- Competitive schools in each class are eligible for this award, which is presented to the school with the highest overall average score awarded by the adjudicators.
- One Honor Band from each competitive category will be invited to perform one number at the Concert Series or Mainstage Awards Ceremony.

\*\*\*Directors of the top-placing honor bands will be notified via phone call and text during the Guest Artist Master Classes (3:30pm-4:00 pm) so it is **imperative to have your cell phone on/accessible during this time. You must also provide us with a second phone number (a parent traveling with you, a chaperone, etc.) in case we cannot reach your primary phone.**

- **Friday**
  - a) Eligible Winning Ensembles include:
    - (1) Middle School
    - (2) College Big Band
    - (3) College Combo
  - b) 4:30pm Mainstage Awards Ceremony - *Ojibwe Ballroom, Davies Center, UWEC*
    - (1) **Middle School Honor Band performs**
  - c) 7:30pm Concert Series - *RCU Theater, Pablo Center at the Confluence*
    - (1) **College Big Band & Combo Honor Band performs**
- **Saturday (High School Big Bands)**
  - a) 4:30pm Concert Mainstage Awards Ceremony - *Ojibwe Ballroom, Davies Center, UWEC*
    - (1) **Class D, High School Combo Honor Band performs**
  - b) 7:30pm Concert Series | RCU Theater, Pablo Center at the Confluence
    - (1) **Class AA, A, B, & C Honor Bands perform**

**PLEASE NOTE: All big bands will have eight minutes to perform one tune, and all combos will have four minutes to perform one tune.**

**In efforts of keeping our Concert Series from running too late, it is imperative that directors keep their performance selection within the allotted time slots.**

## **V. Awards & Scholarships**

- Music Camp Scholarships
    - a) Birch Creek, Shell Lake Arts Center, etc
  - Musical Instruments
    - a) These are donated by local music organizations and awarded to the band programs via our application process.
- B. \*\* More information on the application process for these opportunities will be sent out the month of March.

## **VI. Evaluation Files & Placement Announcements**

- A. Evaluation files, audio files, and copies of outstanding soloist awards will be sent electronically no later than 24 hours after the Festival via a Google folder shared with each band director.

## **VII. Master Classes**

- A. Master Classes will be presented throughout both days of the Festival by the Guest Artists and selected artists/professionals to give clinics.
- B. Clinics are open to all Festival participants and their directors. They are also free and open to the public.