

Jazzworks Jam Session

Guidelines and Etiquette

Timing:

7:30pm	Host band's opening set
8:15pm	Announcements and open jam
10:50pm	Call for final tune and PA system then put away

For Host Bands:

- Play one opening set, ending by 8:15pm. The set officially begins at 7:30, but the host band may begin at 7:15pm if ready.
- Please provide a keyboard and upright bass with amp that others can use in the jam.
- The rhythm section should be well prepared to back up vocalists and instrumentalists and have a good supply of fakebooks.
- The band members must be prepared to remain at the jam until the end, which will usually be somewhere between 11:00-11:30pm.

Calling or joining a song:

- Each person may call one song, and we're asking combos to please refrain from doing consecutive songs, to give others a chance to play.
- If you'd like to call a song, feel free to invite anyone you like to join you onstage, either from the host band or audience members. New jammers should ask others about players/instruments.
- The caller is responsible for putting together the combo, leading the tune, and communicating with other players how to play the song.
- If you'd like to join an already-called song, ask the caller (well before the song is performed!) if it's okay. They may have specific instrumentation in mind for the song.
- If the caller's combo is incomplete, you will be asked to delay until your group is ready.
- The caller is asked to provide lead sheets that are easy to read and are in reasonable keys, including charts for Bb and Eb instruments.

Respect:

- Please be welcoming and introduce yourself to strangers...it makes a difference!
- Only call or join a tune if you know it well. You'll be called only when your combo is complete.
- Keep your solos short. Please keep them to one or two choruses, and splitting choruses on a ballad is a good idea.
- Playing obligatto behind a singer is nice, but choose only one player at a time to do this, so you don't drown out the singer.
- To make room for all players, please don't hog the stage (even if you're really good!).
- Be sure everybody gets a chance to solo and everybody knows whose turn it is to solo and when it's time to take the tune out.

Keep it quick and simple:

- Only use charts that are easy to read...no handwritten or elaborate charts.
- Make the form easy to play, without a lot of complicated arranging instructions.
- Choose tunes that have a reasonable expectation of being known.
- Please be ready to play when your song is called...have your instrument and music in order and quickly make your way to the stage when the previous combo finishes.