



SACRAMENTO STATE

School of Music

VOCAL JAZZ STUDIES

The Bachelor of Music degree in Jazz Studies is designed to produce performers of unique versatility and flexibility. The program offers a balance of instruction in traditional music and jazz performance and a thorough grounding in the fundamentals of music. Prior to acceptance into the degree program, students must pass an entrance audition. This performance audition is required of all applicants to the program. Auditions are held in room 303 in the Sacramento State Music Department (Capistrano Hall). A piano accompanist will be provided.

The format for the entrance audition is as follows:

1. Performance of 2 prepared jazz standards contrasting in styles (one medium tempo or up-tempo tune in a swing style, and one ballad or Latin tune). Please have 2 copies of your selected performance pieces (1 one for the panel of professors, and 1 for the accompanist).
2. Ear training exercises
 - a. You will hear a melodic line of three or four pitches on the piano, and you will be asked to sing them back.
 - b. You will hear a chord with 3-4 notes and in no order will be asked to sing each individual note within that chord.
 - c. You'll be given a starting pitch and asked to sing notes that are certain intervals away (up a 5th, down a minor 3rd, etc.).
3. Range testing – singing 2 octave major and minor scales while displaying your vocal range.
4. Quick sight-reading and part learning from vocal jazz repertoire. You will be given a short, one-page section of a vocal jazz ensemble tune, and you'll be asked to sight-read your part along with a recording of the song. Then we will work with you on the part briefly and give you another chance to read the line with the recording. Be prepared to stay focused, relaxed, and to demonstrate your flexibility and quick-learning skills, while watching your intonation and blend as well.

For questions regarding the jazz voice audition, contact Gaw Vang Williams at (916) 842-0347 or e-mail at: gawvang@csus.edu