

UMEA State JH Jazz Band Audition Recording Questions/Considerations

1 - Is "Doubling" or "Substituting" of ensemble parts, or re-arranging the form of composition allowed on the recording (or at the festival)?

Yes. There is no penalty or restriction for making changes to the instrumentation or form of the composition.

2 - Can I submit an audition recording with a vocalized count-off?

No. Please remove any vocal sounds from the recording that occur prior to the start of the performance.

3 - How do I determine if a piece is in a "Swing Style?"

The conductor's score usually indicates if a song is in swing style. If not, consider the following: swing style divides eighth notes into triplet subdivisions (2/3rds & 1/3rd), and typically has the hi-hat playing on beats 2 and 4, and the bass playing mostly quarter notes. Songs in which several styles are used (for instance, both swing and latin) are permissible for the audition if at least 50% of the song uses swing style.

4 - Is a shuffle considered to be in a "Swing Style?"

It can be. This can be a tricky question as some compositions and arrangements incorporating a shuffle groove/pattern are considered to be in a "Jazz-Rock Style" while others are in a "Jazz-Swing Style." The goal for this audition is to submit a recording that demonstrates your band performing in a "Jazz Swing Style." The final decision is yours, but the screening judges will also be making their own interpretations when comparing audition recordings in the end.

Here are two online articles for further consideration:

<https://blogs.online.berklee.edu/tomrudolph/2014/03/13/jazz-shuffle-vs-swing/>
<http://www.studybass.com/lessons/rhythm/shuffle-and-swing-rhythms/>