

Commercial Ensemble Auditions

UVU currently offers five commercial ensembles available for majors, non-majors, and any student enrolled at UVU to participate in - Sonic Exchange, Pickup Band, Session Ensemble, Jazz Orchestra, and Jazz Combo. Please sign up for the appropriate audition to be considered for ensembles, scholarship students are **required** to audition for their area.

Placement will be determined by the coordinating faculty in their area and based on both performance presented during the audition and the needs of the department.

Anybody is encouraged to audition for the ensembles and we hope that you will spread the word to your friends and colleagues!

All the best,
Dr. Baker and the Commercial Music Faculty

Ensembles:

Sonic Exchange - a top-40, high production band imitating a touring ensemble. This ensemble includes multiple vocalists, a dedicated full rhythm section, a dedicated sound person, and the use of IEMs and backing tracks. Led by Todd Sorensen.

Pickup Band - a band that recreates the typical non-rehearsing, corporate ensemble and prepares students to work in the wedding/party band scene. This ensemble includes multiple vocalists, a dedicated full rhythm section, and optional places for horns. Led by Emily Merrell.

Session Ensemble - a group of songwriters teamed up with a professional rhythm section player/producer meant to recreate the studio musician environment. Students will write original music, chart their songs, and record them learning effective strategies for working in the studio. Led by Joseph Facer.

Jazz Orchestra - a large jazz ensemble playing swinging classics and modern originals. This ensemble includes trumpets, trombones, saxophones, and a full rhythm section. Vocalists will be considered for performances as well. Led by David Baker.

Jazz Combo - a small jazz ensemble playing a mixture of standards and original compositions. Can include any instrumentation based on student enrollment and availability. Led by David Baker.

Drumset

(9am - August 20 in Dr. Jones' Office, NC612V - Saturday, August 20th)

Adjudicated by Dr. Shane Jones.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1UNx-nnMFVhvGsJT-qCOuhhaQOYjslAVSrhdtUpuLWVA/edit?usp=sharing>

Please contact Shane.Jones@uvu.edu for materials and questions.

Keyboard, Guitar, Bass

(10:30am in Dr. Baker's Office, NC 720 - Saturday, August 20th - Tuesday, August 23rd)

Adjudicated by Dr. David Baker.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D49AEAE22A0FBC07-uvucommercial1>

Materials will be given to applicants **two days prior** to their audition to mimic real-world scenarios. If you sign up after August 18th, you will have less time to prepare material at your own discretion.

The audition will consist of reading four brief charts with a backing track demonstrating your ability to play multiple styles, read basic notation on your instrument, and read chord charts. The backing tracks and charts will be provided two days prior to your audition mimicking the quick turn-around of a real world gig. At the audition, your part will be muted in the backing track, and you will perform the given part.

The styles of this year's audition include straight-ahead jazz, hard rock, funk, and soft pop.

Voice

(Online Submission - Due August 22nd by 8:00pm)

Adjudicated by Professor Emily Merrell.

<https://forms.gle/5UX7XaoXnevS7r5o8>

Please sing a song of your choice in a commercial style (top-40 pop, rock, R&B, jazz, etc.) in either an unlisted Youtube link or a "View All" Google Drive link.

Your performance will be reviewed and you will be placed into an appropriate ensemble based on this. If you have any questions, please reach out to Emily.Merrell@uvu.edu.

Horns and Strings

Your auditions will be based on your performance for *ALL* ensembles as directed by your area coordinator. There is no additional audition required to be considered for commercial ensembles and placement will be based after the vocals and rhythm section have been placed first.
