



EUJO Audition Pack 2020

Updated 20/09/20

Musical Director's Introduction

Hello and welcome to the 2020 EUJO audition pack! First of all, thank you so much for your interest in auditioning for us, it makes us feel wanted and loved and heaven knows we all need some more of that this year. In this pack, we explain the extremely fun process of auditioning virtually and provide you with the material you need to do so, but before all that we thought we'd just tell you a bit about the society, what we do, and just how much fun it is to be part of EUJO.

We are (will be) a 17-piece jazz orchestra (5 saxes, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, guitar, bass, keys and drums), with space for up to four vocalists of any voice type.

In normal times, we have a 3-hour full-band rehearsal at The Jazz Bar once a week, with sectionals organized throughout the semester. As well as playing our own concerts at venues such as the La Belle Angele and McEwan Hall, we also play for society balls and other events throughout the city. Best of all, the whole band goes on a 5-day tour in Semester 2!

Of course, this year is different. Since laws are changing from week to week, we will have to play a lot by ear (this is an idiom, all charts are provided), however we have various plans in place. Scottish law allowing, we will hold socially-distanced sectional rehearsals, as well as (online at first) full-band sessions where we go through charts with a pencil, discussing ideas and the details of pieces. Since gigs are extremely unlikely to take place in the first semester, we plan to record a few pieces and release them on social media throughout the remainder of the year. Ultimately, we are hopeful that our law-abiding efforts throughout Semester 1 and early Semester 2 will pay off in the form of gigs next spring.

If the sound of all that doesn't get you pumped, it's still well worth auditioning for the band - EUJO is as much a society as it is an orchestra, so joining comes with all the social opportunities you would expect from any other University society (plus, it'll give you a push to keep practicing!)

Anyway, now onto the actual audition process. Please read the full audition pack carefully, we've tried to make everything as clear as possible. If there is still anything you are unsure about after reading, please don't hesitate to contact us through the email address given at the end of the pack, or at the virtual welcome week. Try to treat it as much like a normal audition as possible - don't stress yourself out by recording 101 takes because you keep making small mistakes - and most importantly, enjoy it!

Liam Bradbury, MD



Edinburgh University Jazz Orchestra

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Audition Overview

Due to COVID-19, we are unable to hold in-person auditions. Instead, we are giving each applicant the chance to complete an online audition and questionnaire. If necessary, these may be followed up by a short online interview with the committee and MD (the auditioning panel), although should this be the case you will be emailed directly.

Each audition takes place through a Google Forms questionnaire, which can be found here:

<https://forms.gle/LwWMY5KczNpBpC3YA>

The deadline for completing the audition is midnight on 30th September.

Aside from some basic questions that we need to ask to accept you into a EUSA society, the form includes some space for you to write a couple of short answers to the following questions. Please do not be intimidated by any of the questions, as they are mainly for us to get a feel for you as a musician.

Instrumental Audition

1. *Can you tell us a little bit about your musical background?*
2. *Are you comfortable reading sheet music / sight-reading?*
3. *Would you be comfortable taking an improvised solo?*

Vocal Audition

1. *Can you tell us a little bit about your experience singing, or playing music in general?*
2. *Who are your main influences?*
3. *Are you comfortable with improvisation?*

The form will then give you a space for you to submit your video application. Unfortunately we do not have enough digital storage space for everyone to upload their videos to us, so we would instead ask that you use your own file-sharing service of choice (we recommend Google Drive, Dropbox, YouTube, or WeTransfer) and simply copy in a link so we may download your video.

More information on what to include in this video is laid out over the next couple of pages, depending on which instrument you would like to audition on. **If you would like to audition on more than one instrument, then please fill out a separate form for each application.**

There is then another space for you to submit a link to another video or recording (old or new) that you think would help your audition. This section is optional, so do not worry if you can't think of anything to show us. It can be anything you like: a piece or exercise you have been working on, a previous performance, or even something you've written. Don't worry about it being jazz related!

Videos will only be used for the purpose of this audition, and only shared within the auditioning panel. All copies of any received videos will be deleted after a decision has been reached.



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Saxophone, Trumpet, & Trombone Audition Videos

Your audition will consist of three parts which we would like you to film in one unedited video. The third section is optional, although we would encourage all applicants to have a go! You are welcome to complete these parts in whatever order you wish, although we would like you to film all three parts in one unedited video. Please make sure you choose the correct music and lead sheet for your instrument.

1. Play from **section C to 7 bars before F** of '*Basie, Straight Ahead*'. The music is located within the **Parts** folder. There is no backing track for this, although you may use a metronome if you wish.
2. Play '*Reach Out – Audition Section*', which is a section from '*Reach Out*' by Matt Harris. The music is located within the **Parts** folder. You may play along to a metronome if you wish.
3. **(Optional)** Choose ONE of the standards within the **Lead Sheets** folder. There are five to choose from, with YouTube backing tracks for each:
 - a. There Will Never Be Another You (fast swing)
 - b. Someday My Prince Will Come (jazz-waltz)
 - c. Pick Up the Pieces (funk)
 - d. Georgia on My Mind (ballad)
 - e. Blues in the Closet (12-bar blues)

See the section '**Standards**' on page five for backing tracks and structure for each piece.

Guitar Audition Videos

Your audition will consist of three parts which we would like you to film in one unedited video. The third section is optional, although we would encourage all applicants to have a go! You are welcome to complete these parts in whatever order you wish, although we would like you to film all three parts in one unedited video.

1. Play from **section B to section F** of '*Basie, Straight Ahead*', using the following backing track: <https://youtu.be/vR2iy2bBPNU>. The music is located within the **Parts** folder.
2. Play from **bar 47 to bar 81 (taking all repeats)** of '*Reach Out*', using the following backing track: <https://youtu.be/E3Lb140ia3g>. The music is located within the **Parts** folder. The click at 0.13 is on beats 1 and 3, indicating the start of **bar 57**.
3. **(Optional)** Choose ONE of the standards within the **Lead Sheets** folder. There are five to choose from, with YouTube backing tracks for each:
 - a. There Will Never Be Another You (fast swing)
 - b. Someday My Prince Will Come (jazz-waltz)
 - c. Pick Up the Pieces (funk)
 - d. Georgia on My Mind (ballad)
 - e. Blues in the Closet (12-bar blues)

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Drum Audition Videos

Your audition will consist of three parts which we would like you to film in one unedited video. You are welcome to complete these parts in whatever order you wish, although we would like you to film all three parts in one unedited video.

1. Play from **section B to section F** of '*Basie, Straight Ahead*', using the following backing track: <https://youtu.be/vR2iy2bBPNU>. The music is located within the **Parts** folder.
2. Play from **bar 47 to bar 81 (taking all repeats)** of '*Reach Out*', using the following backing track: <https://youtu.be/E3Lb140ia3g>. The music is located within the **Parts** folder. The click at 0.13 is on beats 1 and 3, indicating the start of **bar 57**.
3. Play a short section (4 or 8 bars) of each of the following grooves. If you wish, you may treat each groove as if it were building to a new section (so a short fill would be appropriate). Please leave a short separation between each of the grooves, and play them in this order (there is no need to announce each groove):
 - a. Swing – fast 4
 - b. Swing – slow 2
 - c. Funk
 - d. Latin/bossa
 - e. Pop/Rock
 - f. Jazz Waltz

Vocal Audition Videos

Your audition will consist of two songs of your choice, in one unedited video. These can be any songs you like, not necessarily jazz, although do bear in mind that we are a jazz orchestra! At least one of these songs should be unaccompanied. For the other one, you're welcome to sing along to a backing track, have a flatmate or family member accompany you, or accompany yourself. We are looking for two songs of contrasting styles, so choose some songs that you think show off your voice and your musicality.

You're welcome to sing the songs in any order, but please sing both songs within one video (we are trying to mimic what an in-person audition would be like). Of course, you're welcome to take a drink of water / catch your breath between each song!

Don't try and show us what you think we want; we are looking for great individual voices and will pick vocal charts according to the singers we take on.

Keys and Bass

Unfortunately, this year we are not looking for a new keyboard or bass player. For more information, read the section labelled **Committee Roles** below.



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Parts

All music can be found within this Google Drive folder. If you are having trouble accessing the folder, please email us.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zgGEhm91dgB2OU47f9QNMETDiACv2n8E?usp=sharing>

Standards and Backing Tracks

These tunes are for instrumental auditions only. Singers can choose any two songs of their choice.

There Will Never Be Another You – once through the head, once through solo

Backing track: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eO_IEv7SzVM

Someday My Prince Will Come – once through head, once through solo

Backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IF-0l5iqCyc>

Pick Up The Pieces – once through head (ignore repeats), straight to coda, twice through solo

Backing track: <https://youtu.be/FVo6S8wK55E>

Georgia On My Mind – once through head, once through solo

Backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qir3l6OVmgA>

Blues In The Closet – once through head, up to four times through solo

Backing track: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kyMqqPWGKoU>

Recording Your Audition

Recording yourself with a phone will be okay for us to hear how you sound. Try and film yourself in a well-lit area without loud background noise. For any sections where you need to play along to a backing track, make sure that you can still be heard above the backing track. We would recommend recording a short test of yourself playing or singing, so you can listen back with headphones and confirm that you can be heard clearly.

Please keep yourself and your instrument within the video at all times and don't use any extra apps or programs such as Smule or GarageBand to alter the sound. Submissions that appear to have been edited will unfortunately not be accepted.

Committee Roles

To keep as many spaces free for re-auditioning, only the minimum committee is elected at the end of each year. However, this does mean that this year we are unfortunately unable to audition spaces on piano and bass.

Once the band has been chosen, we will have an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) where everyone is given the chance to run in three sub-committee roles: Social Secretary, Librarian, Publicity Manager. If this is something that interests you, then keep an eye out for more information about the EGM if your application is successful.



Frequently Asked Questions

How do I audition if I cannot access my instrument?

- Due to the restrictions in place due to COVID-19, we are unsure how to support musicians with no access to an instrument. If this is an issue that concerns you, please get in contact directly and we will speak to EUSA to see if a work-around is possible.

Can I join EUJO without auditioning for the Jazz Orchestra?

- The Jazz Orchestra society (EUJO) currently is unable to accept members who are not performing members of the Orchestra. EUSA does not currently have any kind of jazz appreciation society. If you think you would be interested in **running** a society for jazz appreciation / lower-level playing, then please get in touch.

How will COVID affect performances and rehearsals throughout the year?

- We will do our best to bring the fullest EUJO experience to all our members this year. Rest assured, the MD and committee are committed to working with the highest-level band we can achieve to play as much as possible within the Government's guidelines. Unfortunately, at this time we can only make plans based on advice from EUSA and the Government, which is being constantly updated.

How much does it cost to be a part of EUJO?

- Ordinarily, we charge membership fees at the start of the year of £20. This money helps us to buy charts at the start of the year. As we play gigs throughout the year, we use the money we raise to subsidise the cost for each of our members for trips, socials, masterclasses, and meals – so this is a worthwhile investment! Due to the different circumstances this year, we're planning to discuss membership fees at the EGM in early October.

Can I audition for EUJO if I am only here for one semester?

- Unfortunately, we only take applications for people who are going to be in Edinburgh for the whole of the academic year (September 2020 – April 2021). We pride ourselves on the high level of playing, and the close connections we foster within the band, and for this reason we are unable to offer spaces to any visiting students who are here for only one semester. If you would like to speak to us about your availability within Edinburgh, there is a space within the application form where you can tell us about your specific circumstances.

What other opportunities are there for me to play jazz within Edinburgh?

- **EUJAM** is a casual fortnightly place to meet and play jazz. **Monday Night Jazz** is a jam session that used to run within Teviot Row House. Currently these are both cancelled, but make sure to check their respective Facebook pages for any updates. **The Jazz Bar** on Chambers Street is a great social hub for all things jazz and funk within Edinburgh. **Edinburgh Jazz & Blues Festival** run jazz courses throughout the term – more information is available on their website.

If you need to contact us for any reason, you can reach our Secretary directly at
ed.uni.jazz.orchestra@gmail.com