

Jazz & Blues Camp Overview - 2026

Dear Texas Jazz & Blues Camp Students & Parents,

Welcome to a musically challenging and fulfilling time at Texas Jazz & Blues Camp! We are excited to have you join us on **Monday, June 15th through Friday June 19th** for Day Campers. Note: Residential Campers (staying at DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel) check-in date and time is Sunday, June 14, at 5pm.

Below is an overview of the camp for you to review, along with file attachments with resource information that will help you get the most from your experience.

Please note that our camp starts a little earlier on the 1st day for check-in and combo placements **Plan on arriving at 8:15 on Monday, June 15th.**














Texas Jazz & Blues Camp inspires a partnership of creativity, develops excellent music skills, teaches valuable life lessons and is so much fun!

Don Braden, Music Director

Things to bring to Jazz & Blues Camp:

- 3 ring binder, pencil, paper, water bottle
- Completed Student Survey form (can be done in advance & handed in on 1st day of camp)
- Completed Jazz Theory Assessment (can be done in advance & handed in on 1st day of camp)
- Some kind of recording device (smartphone, digital recorder, etc.)
- A Metronome and a Tuner (smartphone apps or separate devices)
- Any accessories for your instrument (cords, extra reeds, valve oil, etc. (Amps are provided at camp)
- Drummers: bring your cymbals (in a cymbal bag), drumsticks, brushes, practice pad
- Listening device with great Jazz on it -- **Listening is essential!**

Attached to this email are the following files to review: (these files are also viewable at <https://www.newschoolofmusic.net/tjbc-files/>)

-  _01a- TJBC_OVERVIEW 2026_v1
-  _01b.1- TJBC Health Forms 2026 -
-  _01b.2 - TJBC-Food-Allergies-Form-_2026_
-  _02- TJBC_St_Stephens Campus Map
-  _03- _TJBC_CLASS_SCHEDULE _2026_v1.3
-  _04- TJBC_Student_Survey__v1
-  _05- TJBC_Practical Theory Student Guidelines
-  _06- TJBC_ 2023 Theory Eval (A) v1a
-  _07- TJBC_ Braden_Jazz Resources v2
-  _08- TJBC_ Standard Blues Tunes (Braden)_v2
-  _09- AMG Blues Guide (excerpts)_v2.1
-  _10- TJBC FLYER 2026 & New School Jazz Club__v.2.11
-  _11_NSM_Nonprofit Profile_v4.1

General notes from Don Braden, our Music Director:

- Take a few minutes and do this: memorize, play, and sing Bb and F major scales.
- Listen to Jazz & Blues Masters as much as you can, and pay special attention to those who play your instrument. Listening is a critical part of learning this music.
- About the Theory Evaluation and Instrumental/Vocal Assessment:
 - They are not tests or competitions; they help us to see where you are, so we can create classes with students at comparable levels. The Theory Eval is written, and you are welcome to study it beforehand (see attached).
 - The Instrumental Assessment (also called Combo Placement or Audition) tunes are the 12 bar Blues (in Bb or F, such as “SonnyMoon for Two” and “Bag’s Groove”
 - Note: If you have another tune prepared that you know well, you may be asked to play it, and improvise over the chord changes, if applicable.
 - At the Assessment, an instructor will usually accompany you on piano, keyboard, guitar, or bass. Check out some recordings of these tunes on YouTube, iTunes, etc.), and work on the melody, scales, and chords of the tunes.
- Scales are a big part of the “alphabet” of Western music, Jazz & Blues included, and so are very important to learn on your main instrument. While you’re studying scales, it is very beneficial to study chords as well, and to learn how to understand chord symbols.
- In particular, pianists and guitarists should begin working on at least basic Jazz voicings of at least Major, Minor and Dominant 7th chords. Jazz chord voicings usually contain the 7th and 9th (they aren’t just triads like basic chords in other styles of music), and sometimes have alterations.

THE TEXAS JAZZ & BLUES CAMP CAN ASSUME NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR DAMAGE, THEFT, OR LOSS OF PERSONAL PROPERTY. Please mark all your property!

If you have any questions, please email us at enroll@NewSchoolOfMusic.net or call 512-535-0208.

PLEASE See the Attached CAMPUS MAP & TJBC SCHEDULE, & other docs to review.