

Saxophone Ensemble Auditions – Fall 2026

Important information about the audition process:

- Auditions will take place **behind a screen** so that the panel will not be able to see the performers. You will enter the hall, and the proctor will announce your letter and give you instructions. Please remain silent before and after your performance to maintain anonymity.
- **Bring your own printed copies** of all required music.
- Please plan to **arrive early** and be ready to enter when it is your turn. Each audition will be short, and we aim to stay on schedule.
- Make sure your instrument is **fully assembled and warmed up** ahead of time. **Do not play in the hallway**; warm up in a practice room instead. Cases should be left outside the audition room.
- It is expected that you **listen to professional recordings** of the repertoire to become familiar with style, pacing, and musical context.
- Throughout your audition, we will be listening closely for **accurate rhythm, steady tempo, and precise rest counting** (multimeasure rests excluded)

Please contact Dr. Nathan Mertens at nathan.mertens@colorado.edu with any questions or for additional information concerning audition materials.

Excerpt #1 – Florence Price: *Dance in the Canebrakes, Movement III.*

87 **f** **T**

92 **accel.**

97 **a tempo** **U** **mf** **f**

Excerpt #2 – Leonard Bernstein (arr. Lavender): *Symphonic Dances from West Side Story*

“Mambo”
404 **Meno Presto** (♩ = 132)
ff

409 *f*

414 *ff* *f*

421 *ff* *f* 4

430 *ff*

435

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piano solo, titled "Mambo" from Leonard Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances from West Side Story" (arranged by Lavender). The tempo is marked "Meno Presto" with a quarter note equal to 132 beats per minute. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 2/4. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins at measure 404 with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. The second staff starts at measure 409 with a forte (f) dynamic. The third staff begins at measure 414, featuring a crescendo leading to fortissimo (ff) and then a forte (f) dynamic. The fourth staff starts at measure 421, also with a crescendo to fortissimo (ff) and then forte (f). The fifth staff begins at measure 430 with fortissimo (ff). The sixth staff starts at measure 435. The music is characterized by rapid sixteenth-note passages, often beamed together, and includes various articulations like accents and slurs. A repeat sign with a first ending bracket is present at the end of the fourth staff.

Excerpt #3 – Ingolf Dahl: *Symphony in B-Flat, Movement I.*

Andantino con moto ($\text{♩} = 63-60$)

4

1 [A]

pp bring out *mf dolce*

espr.

[B]

pp

Excerpt #4 – Zhou Tian: *Pedals of Fire*

Allegro $\text{♩} = 132$ ($\text{♩} = 66$)

Solo

f "virtuosic" *ff*

poco rubato

p espress. *mp dolce*

B *p dim.* *ppp*

Handwritten notes: "Solo", "15 sec", "no 4", "bend", "A", "5".

Excerpt #5 – Donald Grantham: *J'ai été au bal*

(♩ = 138)

357

dim. mf

cresc. f

367

dim. mf

372

cresc. f

ff

rit.

Excerpt #6 – Joel Love: *Three Images, Movement III. Bed Monsters*

Super Quick: $\text{♩} = 152$

ff

4

f

f

6

ff

mf

8

f

mp

10

ff

p

mf

A

B