



# 2025 Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival High School Band Competition

**Event:** Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival  
**Website:** [www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org](http://www.midatlanticjazzfestival.org)

**Produced by:** The Jazz Academy of Music, Inc.  
**Website:** [www.jazzacademy.org](http://www.jazzacademy.org)

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**Phone:** 301-871-8418

MID-ATLANTIC  
**JAZZ**  
FEST  
IVAL

FESTIVAL DATES:

**February 14 - 16, 2025**

COMPETITION DATE:

**February 15, 2025**

PLACE:

**Marriott Hotel**

**5151 Pooks Hill Road**

**Bethesda, MD 20814**

# The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival

2025 will be the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival! In 2010, the first Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival (MAJF) was launched by the Jazz Academy of Music, Inc., a Maryland non-profit organization, whose mission is to advance and preserve jazz music through education and outreach. The MAJF's three-day event has been a huge success, with attendance of thousands of jazz lovers each year. Attendees are comprised of listeners, educators, students, parents and musicians. Attendees travel to the festival from points all along the Mid-Atlantic seaboard and beyond.

The MAJF showcases local and touring jazz artists of traditional genres. Also showcased are the gospel and blues genres that are primary influences of jazz music. One of the most important aspects of the festival is the focus on the education of young musicians. Middle and high school, as well as collegiate, level jazz bands perform at the festival. The students also have the opportunity to attend master classes conducted by the touring musicians that are performing at the festival, film screenings covering legacy musicians, play in open "jam sessions" with professional musicians and of course see the pros in live performances. Many of these opportunities are free and open to the public.

The MAJF programming consists of 3 days of jazz music performances by some of the top musicians in the country. Artists like NEA Jazz Masters Ellis Marsalis, Brian Lynch, Roy Haynes, Branford Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis and Jimmy Heath; renowned pianist, the late Mulgrew Miller; saxophonist Bobby Watson and trumpeter Terrell Stafford have graced our stage. In addition, the event has an educational component that includes master classes, film screenings and interviews in front of a live audience with some of the more popular performing artists.

The 2025 event will include:

- 12 - 15 marquee performances on the Main Stage,
- 12 - 15 performances on our Q (Quincy) and Bayou Stages
- Free performances on our Lobby Stage,
- Free master classes, interviews, film screenings, state of jazz discussions and other humanities programming,
- Vendors of cultural art and couture, and
- Free jam sessions for all ages.

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## JAZZ BAND COMPETITION OVERVIEW

The competition will include more than 12 high school jazz bands that are from schools located in the Mid-Atlantic States, including North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, the District of Columbia and beyond. Members of the band must attend the same high school. The competition will begin at 8:00AM on Saturday, February 15th at the MAJF's Discovery Stage location. Each band will have a maximum of 25 minutes on stage to set up, perform, break down and exit the stage. Bands must adhere to these timeframes. Band Directors may select three (3) compositions of their choice to perform, however, the entire program must be Jazz orientated, (i.e. Swing Jazz, Bebop Jazz, Latin Jazz, or Funk Jazz) and at least 2 of the 3 selections must be of contrasting styles. The panel will include 3 judges and 2 clinicians. Immediately following each performance, one of the MAJF clinicians will conduct a private clinic to provide immediate feedback on the band's performance.

At 4:15pm, three finalists will be named and will proceed to the festival's Main Stage location for a final playoff which will begin at 5:00PM. Each finalist will play two selections of their choice. The panel of judges for the final playoff will be augmented with one of the touring musicians that are performing at the MAJF. At the end of the playoff, the first-, second- and third- place trophies and cash award will be awarded.

Admittance to the competition will be on a first paid first served basis and will be determined by the postmark date.

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## Warm-up and Performance Timeframes and Logistics

Each band will be provided with an individual that will serve as its MAJF liaison at the festival. The liaison will escort the band to the rehearsal space and to the stage area and will be available to answer questions and assist with other needs and requirements. Each band will be provided access to a room to tune and warm up prior to its competition performance on the MAJF's Atrium stage. The rehearsal room will be equipped with a piano, and a full drum set. Bass and Guitar amps are not provided. Each band will be allowed up to 30 minutes in the warm-up room just prior to its performance time. Approximately 15 minutes before a band's scheduled performance time, the Band Director should send the band's setup crew to the Discovery Stage performance area. The only equipment available on stage will be a piano, a drum set without cymbals, chairs, stands and sufficient microphones. While backline will be provided, schools may choose to bring their own equipment. However, on-stage time will not be extended beyond 25 minutes. Schools must bring all of their own percussion equipment, including vibraphones. Approximately 10 minutes before the scheduled performance time, the rest of the band should move to the performance area. Each band will have a maximum of 25 minutes on stage to set up, perform, break down and exit the stage.

## Performance Requirements

Upon check-in for the competition, the Band Director shall provide the completed "Repertoire Form" (attached). The form should include the names of the soloists, so that each soloist can be considered for the outstanding soloist awards. The performance rules are as follows:

- On-stage time may not exceed 25 minutes including set-up, performance, breakdown and exit
- The entire performance must be Jazz-oriented (i.e. Swing Jazz, Bebop Jazz, Latin Jazz, or Funk Jazz)
- Two of the three selections must be of contrasting styles
- Directors are encouraged to vary the tempo of the selections and demonstrate the use of dynamics.

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## THE AWARDS

### Band

The Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival High School Band Competition will culminate with the presentation of the awards. The awards presentation will take place on the festival's Main Stage. There are three (3) band awards, 1st, 2nd and 3rd place and three (3) individual awards that will be given to the outstanding soloists in the competition. Each band award recipient will receive a trophy. The registration fee will be waived for the 1<sup>st</sup> place band for next year.

*Last year's first place winner was Newark Academy; Newark, New Jersey; Director, Julius Tolentino*



Each individual award recipient will receive a plaque and a scholarship to attend the Jazz Academy Summer JAM Camp or Lab valued at \$625.00. This represents a full scholarship to JAM Camp and a partial scholarship to JAM Lab. Students are taught jazz improvisation, history and are paired by skill level in combo groups to play and perform various compositions representing various periods of jazz music. For more information on JAM Camp or Lab, please visit our website at [www.jazzacademy.org](http://www.jazzacademy.org).

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## The Site



We are pleased to join the Marriott Hotel as our venue sponsor for the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. The Bethesda Marriott Hotel is a stylish hotel and event venue. It is the perfect location for the MAJF with over 19,000 square feet of expansive and flexible space. It is located at 5150 Pooks Hill Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814.

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The hotel features a staff committed to excellence, extraordinary dining options, and an outstanding location with complimentary shuttle service to the Washington Metro Transit's – Medical Center Station – Red Line ([www.wmata.com](http://www.wmata.com)) making it extremely accessible to most of the popular tourist destinations in Maryland and Washington, DC. Performance space, accommodations, food, vendors, and more are all indoors under one roof. The hotel is minutes from world-class shopping and over 200 restaurants. It is also conveniently located to all area airports, major highways and the Amtrak train station, Union Station. The festival room rate is \$149.00 per night for rooms with double-queen beds. We recommend that hotel reservations be made as soon as possible as the hotel will be fully booked for the festival. Guests must tell the hotel reservationist that they are attending the MAJF (Group Name: MFA) to get the festival room rate. [Book your group rate for Mid Atlantic Jazz Festival 2025 MYP1 of 3](#)

For special group accommodations for your band, please contact the hotel event manager **Katherine Roberts** at 301-564-5464 and reference the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival. Katherine will work with you to adjust the rooms to book contiguous rooms on the same floor and to structure meal plans for your band members if desired.

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## REGISTRATION DEADLINE AND FEES

The final registration deadline is January 15, 2025

- The registration form attached to this brochure must be completed for each band entry and signed and dated by the school's Band Director and Principal.
- A registration fee is required for each band competing with the exception of the 1<sup>st</sup> place band from the previous year's competition. There is no discount for multiple performance groups by the same school. The registration fee for each performing group is \$325.00 for registrations received between now and January 15, 2025. Your registration fee must be included with the application. Checks should be made payable to: The Jazz Academy of Music, Inc. You may also pay by credit card by including the payment information on the application or by calling the Jazz Academy Offices at 301-871-8418 to pay by phone.
- All MAJF free are open to the students for participation. There are master classes, a "Kids JAM Session", a late-night Jam session and many performances that are free and open to the public. Concerts held in the Main Ballroom, and other paid stages require tickets. The Band Director will receive 1 complimentary all-access **general seating** pass for the entire event. Participating band students, and any chaperone for schools located outside of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area, who would like to have full access to all performances must pay an additional fee per the following schedule to obtain an **economy seating** pass.
- If you have any questions, please contact Monique Sugarmon, Program Manager at 888-909-6330 X905.

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**DEADLINES**

Final: **01/15/2025**

**MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL REGISTRATION FORM**

**High School Jazz Band Competition  
February 15, 2025**

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Complete and execute one form for each performing group. You may submit the form via e-mail to inquiry@jazzacademy.org or fax to 301-563-9339 or mail to The Jazz Academy of Music, P.O. Box 6744, Silver Spring, Maryland 20916-6744. For questions call 301-871-0858 or toll free 1-888-909-6330.

**Name of Ensemble** (as you want it to appear in print): \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsoring Director's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of High School:** \_\_\_\_\_

**School Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Office Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ **Other Phone:** (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendees: Number of Students:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of Adults:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fees: [For Competition Attendees Only]**

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
<b>Registration – High School Band Competition Only</b>	\$325.00		
<b>Registration Packages (Note: No Discount for Less Than 20 Students)</b>			
1 Band Registration -Plus Saturday Daytime Only Voyager All Access Pass for entire band up to 20 students plus Director.	\$815.00		
1 Band Registration -Plus Saturday Voyager All Access Passports for band up to 20 students plus Director.	\$1,600.00		
1 Band Registration -Plus Friday Voyager All Access Pass and Saturday Daytime Only Voyager All Access Pass for band up to 20 students plus Director.	\$1,600.00		
1 Band Registration - Plus Student Friday and Saturday All Access Voyager Passports for band up to 20 students plus Director.	\$2,375.00		
1 Band Registration –Plus Student Weekend Voyager Passport for band up to 20 students plus Director	\$3,550.00		

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**MID-ATLANTIC JAZZ FESTIVAL HIGH SCHOOL BAND COMPETITION**

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
<b>Additional Student Passports (For Competing Students and Chaperons Only with purchase of a Registration Package.)</b>			
Saturday Daytime only Student Voyager Passport	\$25.00		
Saturday Student Voyager All Access Passport	\$65.00		
Friday Student Voyager All Access Passport and Saturday Daytime only Student Voyager All Access Passport	\$65.00		
Friday and Saturday Student All Access Voyager Passport	\$105.00		
Student Weekend Voyager All Access	\$165.00		
<b>Total</b>			

**Payment:**

**Check payable to:**  
The Jazz Academy of Music, Inc.

**Visa/MasterCard**  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Acct# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address (For Receipt): \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the conditions set out in the accompanying brochure and certify that all the participants are under 19 years of age as of February 15, 2025. I agree that the performance may be included in our MAJF promotional videos, photographs or recordings promoting this festival without fees.

**Director Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Print Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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MAJF BAND COMPETITION REPERTOIRE FORM

Please submit four copies to host at check-in for duplication and distribution

High School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Director's Name \_\_\_\_\_

PROGRAM:

Selection 1 \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Soloist Name/Instrument:

Four horizontal lines for entering soloist information for Selection 1.

Selection 2 \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Soloist Name/Instrument:

Four horizontal lines for entering soloist information for Selection 2.

Selection 3 \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE COMPOSER/ARRANGER

Soloist Name/Instrument:

Four horizontal lines for entering soloist information for Selection 3.

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**SAMPLE MAJF BAND COMPETITION ADJUDICATION FORM**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(School)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Director)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

**Selections/Soloists**

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Gold-G= 8-10pts      Silver-S=5-7pts      Bronze-B=1-4pts**

Score	Areas of Consideration	Comments
	<b>Intonation/Tone Quality</b> Consider: resonance, control, clarity consistency, warmth	
	<b>Balance/Blend</b> Consider: phrasing, ensemble	
	<b>Dynamics</b> Consider: individuals, sections, ensemble	
	<b>Interpretation</b> Consider: tempo, phrasing, emotional involvement, style	
	<b>Precision</b> Consider: articulation, technique, control of ranges	
	<b>Rhythm Section</b> <b>Balance/Blend/Dynamics</b> Consider: balance, style	
	<b>Rhythm Section</b> <b>Time/Intensity/Drive</b> Consider: steadiness of tempo, fills	
	<b>Quality of Improvisation</b> Consider: harmonic/melodic content, creativity	
	<b>Choice of Music</b> Consider: variety, suitability	
	<b>Stage Presence</b> Consider: dress, presentation and showmanship	

**Total Points [Performance Level: (80-100= Gold), (50-79=Silver), (10-49=Bronze)]**

**Adjudicator's Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

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