



**Merit School of Music
Chicago, Illinois**

Part-time Position Announcement:

Merit Jazz Ensemble Director

Description

Merit School of Music seeks a director for the Merit Jazz Ensemble – Merit's top Conservatory jazz band. The Merit Jazz Ensemble is comprised of top high school musicians from the greater Chicagoland area. Big band comprises part of the required course offerings for enrolled jazz students and is taken in addition to music theory, improvisation, instrumental technique, *Live from Gottlieb* Recital Series, and jazz combo. Rehearsals will begin on Saturday, September 30th and continue for 26 weeks through Saturday, April 28th. Rehearsals take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center from 1pm – 2:30pm. The successful candidate may be considered for additional teaching opportunities in Merit's Conservatory and/or Private Lesson Program.

Organization Overview

Since its founding in 1979, Merit School of Music has successfully motivated and inspired over 50,000 young people with high-quality music instruction. The School's broad-ranging comprehensive curriculum, extensive level of financial aid, sense of community and the standard of excellence set forth by the faculty and students are major components of its success.

Merit offers a multi-leveled, structured curriculum in a college preparatory environment. Programs take place at the Joy Faith Knapp Music Center in Chicago's West Loop and at nearly 30 locations in neighborhoods across the City. Instruction is offered to approximately 5,000 students of all ages, from infants to adults, and from beginners to the Juilliard-bound by over 150 accomplished faculty members. Merit has an annual operating budget of \$6 million, of which nearly half is supported by contributed revenue.

Mission

Merit School of Music transforms the lives of Chicago-area youth through removing barriers to high-quality music education.

Reporting Relationship

The **Merit Jazz Ensemble Director** reports to the **Dean of Programs**.

Job Responsibilities

Responsibilities of **Merit Jazz Ensemble Director** include, but are not limited to:

- Delivering excellent, inspiring and motivational instruction to the ensemble each week for 26 weeks
- Preparing a minimum of 3 performances each year for the winter and spring concert series and Performathon in February
- Participation in Merit faculty meetings and/or department meetings
- Timely correspondence with Merit staff and students/families
- Other projects as assigned

Personal Skills/Attributes/Qualifications

The ideal candidate would possess the following qualifications:

- Proven success teaching advanced jazz students in a big band setting
- The ability to successfully teach improvisation skills to advanced students
- A broad knowledge of varied and advanced big band repertoire
- The ability to set and achieve high expectations for student learning and performance
- Punctual, professional, and collegial nature
- Fantastic communication skills
- A high level of personal musicianship

Educational Requirements

Bachelor's degree in music or equivalent experience/training

Schedule

Rehearsals take place at Merit's Joy Faith Knapp Music Center (38 S. Peoria) in Chicago's West Loop

- Saturdays, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Compensation

Compensation is \$73.50 per hour.

Interested candidates should send résumé to:

hr@meritmusic.org

No phone calls or faxes please.

For more information about Merit School of Music, please visit www.meritmusic.org.

Merit School of Music does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religious belief, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, veteran status, physical or mental disability or any other protected status in admission or access to, or employment in its programs and activities.