

“An Evening at Club Cougar”



Club Cougar Orchestra Handbook

The Purpose of this Handbook

The purpose of this handbook is to give an overview of what Club Cougar is and to fully explain the role, time commitment and considerations of the Club Cougar Orchestra (Jazz Band).

Okay, stop... What is CLUB COUGAR?!?

Foothill High School's Performing Arts Production, "**An Evening at Club Cougar**" is an event to raise money to support FHS Music and Drama departments, while educating music students in the art of performance skills. Club Cougar is a step back in time, as we recreate a 1930's Chicago-style jazz club; featuring authentic dress, music and decor. This evening of dining, drama and dancing to big band music is made possible by the extraordinary talents and commitment of our music and drama students, as well as their parent volunteers.

Aside from our Jazz Band (the CC Orchestra), roles are offered for vocal, dancing, drama and ushers. The 3-night January show is held at the David Marr Auditorium (2200 Eureka Way). Students will need transportation to and from the venue each night.

Because we could not do this show without the support of countless volunteers, parents are required to help with volunteer shifts during the performance. Club Cougar is the main income generator for the arts at FHS.

The Timeline

The Fall Semester

The Fall Semester is spent building the band, and our sound. Students should be to be immersed in and obsessed with listening to the music of the Big Band Era, in order to capture the distinct sounds and styles needed to produce music that replicates the era in the most authentic way possible.

We perform at a series of concerts towards the end of the semester in order to start to ramp up: The Thursday before Thanksgiving Break in the FHS Small Gym, our Winter Concert at the David Marr Auditorium, and the Sacramento State Jazz Festival (second Saturday of December). These performances provide good markers for progress and assist with practical goal setting.

Approaching Finals Week, it is necessary for the jazz band to hold after school rehearsals. The week before Finals, the band practices on Tuesday-Thursday from 3:30-5:00pm. These further galvanize the band, and prepare us for January...students should make every effort to attend as many of these rehearsals as their schedules permit.

Early January

Jazz Band meets before and after school (beginning on the Tuesday after Winter Break). These after school rehearsals are to be considered mandatory (although there will be unavoidable reasons students may miss a rehearsal here and there...the ultimate goal is to have every student at every rehearsal every day). After school rehearsals are 3:30-5:00pm (Tuesday-Friday).

Moving Day

The Friday before the show opens, Jazz Band meets with the CC Dancers in order to run the numbers for the show. This closed rehearsal takes place in the FHS Cafeteria from 3:30-5:00. Following this rehearsal, we load out and move in to the David Marr Auditorium. Upon arrival, we set up our entire stage (stand fronts, stand lights, band chair/stand placement, and rhythm section placement). Rhythm

section will plug in and get a rudimentary sound check. Dinner will be provided by FHS Band Boosters, and we will conclude by 7:30pm. Transportation is not provided on this day.

Show Week (Pre-Production)

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday that precede Opening Night are important pre-production days for our show. Jazz Band will stagger our preparation this week, in an attempt to miss as little school as possible.

Monday: 7:30-11:30am, 1:00-3:00pm

Tuesday: Rehearsals at FHS only – No David Marr

Wednesday: 7:30-10:00am, 11:00-1:00pm, 4:30-5:30pm Cast Pictures

Dress Rehearsal

Wednesday night (6:00-9:00pm) is Dress Rehearsal. This is a Closed Rehearsal.

Performances

The last Thursday, Friday and Saturday of January are our show nights! Students need to be at the David Marr by 5:00pm. The show concludes at 9:00pm, and pick-up for non-combo musicians is 9:30pm. Our combo musicians have an after-show until 10:00pm. They are released at 10:15pm.

Cast Party

Following the Saturday Closing Night Show, students have a Cast Party at the Y.M.C.A. on the corner of Court and Eureka Way...food and fun provided! They are released at 1:00am Sunday morning.

The Rules

Wardrobe

Our show makes every effort to take people back in time. As a result, we work hard to provide authenticity to all aspects of the show.

White Dinner Jackets are provided by Club Cougar. Students need to go to Tuxedo Den in Redding during the month of December in order to get fitted. Jazz Band members need: black dress shoes, black dress socks, black suit or tux pants, white tux shirt, black bow tie. Black cummerbund is optional.

Jackets will be delivered to the church during the Pre-Production Week. Mrs. Bahr is in charge of CC Orchestra costuming, and should we need a last-minute resize, she will take care of last-minute tux jacket issues. Following the Closing Night show, jackets must be hung neatly, all items removed from pockets, and returned to Mrs. Bahr.

Hair (Gentlemen): Above the shirt collar in the back and styled appropriately for the time period. Hair does not necessarily need to be short, but it must not be long in a shaggy or un-kept way. Hair must be a natural color.

Hair (Ladies): Hair is to be pulled back off your face and secured in the back. Hair must be a natural color.

Cosmetics: Ladies, one small stud per ear is appropriate. No other jewelry, facial piercings, lipstick or makeup (a light foundation is fine).

Accessories

Phone: From the time you are on stage to the time you are off stage, you do not own a phone. There is no phone. Forget about the phone. It should be kept in your case, and should be out of your mind. "Oh but I need to use it for a tuner." Great! Go buy a tuner.

Watch: An era appropriate (meaning non-smart watch, a "dumb watch!") is acceptable.

Behavior

For all student-specific rules pertaining to the Club Cougar Production, students must abide by the rules and regulations as stated in the Foothill High School Student Handbook. The default rule is this: If you have to ask yourself if what you're about to do is dumb...it probably is...so, DON'T DO IT!

Lastly, we are The Club Cougar Orchestra. We are a hard-working, committed ensemble. Act like it.