

The Count Basie Orchestra

Stage Plot and Backline Requirements

Total of 4 Pages ~ (Revised - August 2013)

14 Chairs (without arms)

2 Black Music Stands for the bassist

1 Bass Amplifier (optional)

1 Grand Piano with adjustable piano bench

Piano lid completely removed

Piano tuned to A-440 on day of performance

17 Black Music Stand Lights – optional use with guest vocalists

Microphone and Sound Reinforcement

Piano – Two microphones 3 to 4 inches above the hammers and middle body of the piano.

Guitar – Our guitarist is totally acoustic and requires a condenser microphone on a short boom stand. He will need a monitor placed on his left side with **guitar only output**. He sits in the curve of the piano.

Bass – Our bassist uses a small clip-on microphone (AT Pro 35) which he will provide. The microphone will need Phantom Power and a dedicated XLR line. He also requires a 15" (or suitable) monitor with **bass only output**.

5 Saxophones – 3 microphones. 5 microphones if venue is outside. We will adjust.

4 Trombones – 2 microphones. 4 microphones if venue is outside.

4 Trumpets – 2 microphones. 4 microphones if venue is outside.

Drums – 4 microphones **only if necessary and this will be determined by CBO**. If necessary, 2 overheads, and one snare/hi-hat, and one kick microphone.

Vocals – 1 microphone on straight stand.

Conductor - 1 microphone on straight stand on far stage left, next to end of saxes.**2**

2 Solo Microphones on boom stands.

4 Monitors – One for guitar, one for 2 soloists, one for vocals, one for conductor

* **Very Important** – Depending on the acoustics of the venue, we could very well strike all of the drums and brass microphones and use all others. We simply need presence and always strive for a balanced acoustic sound that we control from the stage. Once the levels are set by our sound person during sound check, they should remain there with little to no adjusting by the house mixer. The orchestra itself controls the dynamics.

Balance Levels For The House

The vocal, conductor, and solo microphones are above all others with a nice and warm EQ. We require no reverb and the EQ should be set to flat unless otherwise noted by our sound person.

The bass level is next. Not a booming sound, but crystal clear in all registers.

Then the piano and guitar are slightly below the bass level with neither ever being above the bass. They blend together with a slight advantage to the piano.

The saxophones should be heard next clearly with the lead alto in the middle chair slight above the other four, but with the baritone sax on the end also heard clearly.

The trombone microphones are set near the saxophone level with the trumpet microphones being slight above the bones as they are in the back and have to cut through the drums to be heard properly. Our sound person will supervise this level.

Lighting

The lighting needs to simply be bright enough for all musicians on stage to be able to read music that is decades old with some yellow pages. No reds or blues too much as those colors interfere with being able to see the music properly. The entire stage should be bright enough to see each musician's face clearly. No spots are necessary unless there are guest vocalists and the musicians are using stand lights.

Risers and Chairs

Please see diagram below, but the saxes are on the floor, with the trombones and drums on a riser at least 6 inches above the floor, and the trumpets at least 12 inches above the floor and above the trombones.

1 Drum Kit to the following specifications:

Ludwig, Slingerland, and Gretsch kits are acceptable. All drums must be made entirely of birch shells. Single Ply Remo coated heads on all toms and snare. No clear heads please. Hardware should be Yamaha or DW.

Drums - 1 each of the following:

16" x 20" bass drum (with bass drum tom mounts and no hole in the front head)

5.5" x 14" snare drum (if possible, two or three to choose from)

8" x 10" mounted tom

9" x 12" mounted tom

14" x 14" floor tom

Cymbal stands with booms

Snare drum stand

Hi-Hat stand with 3 legs (very important)

Comfortable Drum Throne (no bicycle seat style)

No tom mounts on cymbal stands

Cymbals - Bosphorus or Zildjian (our drummer will bring his own cymbals)

22" Ride - Medium Thin

20" Ride - Thin

18" or 20" Crash/Ride

18" Crash - Thin

14" Hi-Hats (Top Thin/Bottom Medium Thin)

1 Acoustic Double Bass with French or German Bass Bow

Professionally set up for performance by a qualified Luthier, Music Store, or local Professional Bassist. No Electric Upright or Fender style basses.

Count Basie Orchestra Backline and Stage Plot (continued)

