

JAZZ BASS STUDIO INSTRUCTION

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Course text: The Real Book, Volume 1 (current edition)

Freshman Year

- All major and minor scales and associated chord scales (double-stop harmonized scales), and ways to map these on bass fingerboard
- Diatonic 7th chords in all major keys
- II-V-I progression in all major keys
- All diatonic modes
- Introduction to walking bass and the "functional anticipation" of a forthcoming chord change
- Technical overview how to swing and use dynamics to enhance swing
- Historical overview of jazz bass, with emphasis on the rhythmic "freeing" and harmonic sophistication throughout jazz history

Sophomore Year

- Memorization of commonly used song forms, especially 12-bar blues and "Rhythm" changes
- Pentatonic and blues scales and various alternative approaches
- Exploration of double-stop chord voicings
- Exploration of ballad playing and use of ballad-appropriate techniques
- Exploration of odd time signatures
- Historical overview of the role of bass within the big band tradition

Junior Year

- Exploration of solo jazz bass performance
- Exploration of chord substitution within walking bass lines
- Latin bass lines and rhythmic patterns
- Exploration of Charlie Parker melodic lines using Parker compositions in The Real Book
- Historical overview of separate sub-genres of jazz bass (East coast hard bop, West coast cool, fusion, free, etc.)

Senior Year

- Transcribe and play solos by established jazz bassists
- Altered dominant chords and scales
- Exploration of "modal" and "tonal center" melodic improvisation
- Exploration of duo, piano trio and drummerless trio accompaniment, and bass accompaniment without chordal instruments
- Historical overview of non-jazz vernacular American music styles and how bass functions within those genres, and how they mix with jazz styles