

JAZZ STUDIO INSTRUCTION
Ken Watters
Lessons take place in Roberts Hall
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Course Purpose:

Intended for instrumentalists & vocalists of all levels (both undergraduate & graduate) / offered in either 30 minute or 50 minute classes (50 minute reserved for music majors).

Course Objectives:

1. Learning the basics of jazz style, as opposed to classical & other "non-jazz" genres. This includes articulation techniques not normally utilized when playing non-jazz music, various concepts of note placement in jazz, etc...
2. Learning the most commonly performed jazz standard repertoire in order of importance (from the most often played songs to least common in "real world" jazz performance situations).
3. Transcription of selected & historically important solos from the jazz repertoire. Artists studied & transcribed include key jazz musicians from every era of jazz, including Dixieland, bebop, "post-bop" & modern jazz.
4. Learning selected transcribed solos verbatim with the end goal of imitating every aspect of the original solo (sound and time conception, articulation, abstractly-executed inflection, etc.).
5. Learning the basics of general etiquette for the working jazz musician - from long-established onstage musical expectations to offstage conduct (as both leader & "sideman").
6. Becoming comfortable with reading music in concert key (as opposed to the key of the students' instruments). For example, Bb & Eb instruments MUST possess the ability to sight read from a concert key sheet of music with ease.

Semester 1 Objectives:

- Learn all twelve major scales starting on any of the 7 notes within those keys (in other words, all 7 modes)
- Learn correct "D" syllable jazz articulation (as opposed to standard "T" syllable articulation, as used in classical music)
- In order of importance, learn & memorize at least 8 songs from The Real Book, Volume 1 beginning with "Blue Bossa," but including at least one standard blues song in both Bb & F concert & one standard "rhythm change" song in concert Bb

- Learn Clifford Brown's transcribed solo in "Joy Spring."

Semester 2 Objectives:

- In all 12 keys, practice long-running 8th notes lines at a reasonably fast tempo (¼ note = 200-300) utilizing a combination of angular & linear lines. A metronome should be used & set at ½ tempo, so as to feel the clicks as beats 2 & 4
- Learn & memorize at least 8 more Real Book Volume 1 songs (again, in order of importance in "real world" situations)
- Learn & memorize another Clifford Brown solo of the teacher & student's choosing (likely "All The Things You Are")
- Learn another "rhythm change" song, but in a different key, such as concert F (for example, "Scraple From The Apple")

Performance Requirements:

Jury: Music majors are required to take a jury exam every semester. Music minors are required to take a jury exam every other semester. A solo, chosen by both the student & instructor, will be performed at each jury. Normally, this will consist of a piece from the universal standard jazz repertoire.

Cancellation Policy:

If either the student or instructor must cancel their lesson at the appointed time, every effort will be made by both parties to schedule a make up.