

University of Connecticut Music Department Jazz Ensemble...MUSI 1115

Director: John Mastroianni

Office Location: MU 117

Office Hour: Monday and Wednesday; 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

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Course Description/Objectives: This ensemble will explore and perform literature written for the big band. A wide variety of styles, composers and arrangers will be studied. Some of the many composers and arrangers whose music will be represented include: Thad Jones, Sammy Nestico, Bob Mintzer, Frank Foster, Neal Hefti, Oliver Nelson, Rob McConnell, Don Sebesky, Bill Holman, Slide Hampton, Jim McNeely, John LaBarbera, Michael Abene, and Maria Schneider. Compositions and arrangements by students and faculty are encouraged and will also be represented.

Course Length: Fall Semester 2021

Rehearsal Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:45 P.M. von der Mehden

Fall 2021 Performance Dates

Sunday, September 19...Jazz Showcase Concert in VDM @ 3:00 P.M.

Sunday, November 7...Jazz Lab Band Concert in VDM @ 3:00 P.M. (FYI)

Sunday, November 14...Jazz Combos Concert in VDW @ 8:00 P.M. (FYI)

Sunday, December 5...Jazz Ensemble Concert in VDM @ 6:00 P.M.

The instructor's goals for this ensemble are to:

- Acquaint students with the stylistic nuances of swing through assigned listening, instruction, demonstration, and playing experience
- Elevate the sight reading ability of each ensemble member
- Prepare the students for professional performance situations by exposing them to the gamut of big band styles
- Expose Music Education majors (future band directors) to the jazz literature and effective rehearsal techniques
- Perform with inspiring guest artists/clinicians
- Elevate the level of improvisation within the ensemble

Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal & Performance Policies

1. Students must be in attendance, on time, and prepared for all rehearsals and performances. **A HuskyCT announcement will be sent every Friday to let students know what to prepare for rehearsals the following week.** If sickness or an emergency situation requires that the student be absent from a rehearsal, the student must arrange for a substitute. It is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor in advance and get the music to the substitute. It is also the responsibility of the student to get his/her music back from the substitute for the next rehearsal. Failure to provide the substitute with the music for rehearsal, or failure to get the music back for the next rehearsal may result in the lowering of the student's final grade. A text message should be left at least one hour prior to the rehearsal at (203) 494-0358. An unexcused absence will result in the lowering of the student's grade. Students with three unexcused absences will be immediately dropped from the class and assigned an "F" for the semester. Only the instructor may determine what constitutes an "excused absence". Repeated tardiness will result in a lowering of the student's final grade.
2. Performances scheduled after the semester begins will be mandatory for the student if no objection is raised at the time of the query. Any student who misses a performance without permission in advance from the instructor will be immediately dropped from the class and assigned an "F" for the semester.
3. No food or drink (except water) is allowed in the rehearsal room.
4. Cell phones are to be turned off and not used during rehearsals and performances. No digital distractions please!
5. Any music handed out to students during the semester is the sole responsibility of that student. Failure to return any music to the jazz department that was handed out during the year will require the student to pay for replacement of the missing music. When music is no longer available from the publisher, students will submit a complete part transcribed from the score utilizing a music notation program (Finale, Sibelius, etc.) **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Grades will not be issued until all music is returned.
6. Students are expected to act responsibly and professionally at all rehearsals and performances. Concert attire is semi-formal: ties/coats for men. No tennis shoes, jeans, sunglasses or hats. At **NO TIME** are students permitted to drink alcohol at/before a jazz rehearsal or performance.

Grading Policy

Your grade will be based upon:

- Demonstrated effort in rehearsals, sectionals, and personal practice. Practicing excellence is cultivated and expected at all times.
- Rehearsal demeanor: ensemble members are expected to conduct themselves as professionals during rehearsals and performances. This

- includes being prompt, tuned up and ready to play at the designated starting time, having a pencil, your music, mutes, etc. Please refrain from excessive talking, and stop when you are “cut-off!” No cell phones please!!!
- Participation: attendance is mandatory at all rehearsals, concerts, and sectionals, except in the case of illness, or with prior consent of the instructor. Arranging for a substitute will be greatly appreciated, and is the professional thing to do! Please notify the instructor in advance whenever possible. Cell phones and electronic devices should be out of sight during all rehearsals and performances.

Grading:

- Class Participation: 40%
- Repertoire (“spot checks”): 30%
- Personal Achievement: 10%
- Performances: 20%

Please note the following University policies.

<http://catalog.uconn.edu/academic-regulations/grade-information/#attendance>

<http://policy.uconn.edu/2011/05/24/people-with-disabilities-policy-statement/>

<http://policy.uconn.edu/2013/08/07/policy-against-discrimination-harassment-and-inappropriate-romantic-relationships/>

<http://catalog.uconn.edu/academic-regulations/grade-information/#exam-absence>

<http://community.uconn.edu/the-student-code-preamble/>

It is the responsibility of all students to acquaint themselves, and to adhere to all university policies. Please visit: <https://policy.uconn.edu>

Please be certain to follow all safety protocols and to keep current with university communications regarding COVID-19.

Some useful telephone numbers:

- **Counseling and Mental Health Services:** 486-4705 (after hours: 486-3427) www.cmhs.uconn.edu
- **Career Services:** 486-3013 www.career.uconn.edu
- **Alcohol and Other Drug Services:** 486-9431 www.aod.uconn.edu
- **Dean of Students Office:** 486-3426 www.dos.uconn.edu

Thanks in advance for your enthusiasm and dedication to making great music!
Have an awesome semester!