

## University of Connecticut Music Department

### Jazz Ensemble...MUSI 1115

**Director:** John Mastroianni

**Office Location:** MU 117

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Wednesday; 11:00 - 12:00 (virtually by appointment)

**Phone:** (860) 486-4796

**E-Mail:** john.mastroianni@uconn.edu

**Course Description/Objectives:** This ensemble will meet online this semester and explore literature written for the big band, develop aural and improvisational skills, and multi-track select big band compositions. 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, Erica Seguire, 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 2020 (13 weeks)

**Online Class Times:** Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:45 P.M. via Web Ex/Google Meets

### Scope and Sequence (subject to change)

Dates	Topics
Week of August 31	9/1: Course overview, objectives, syllabus 9/3: Overview/analysis of charts to be multi-track recorded
Week of Sept. 7	9/8: Evolution of Big Bands 9/10: Rhythm sectional
Week of Sept. 14	9/15: Evolution of Big Bands Cont. 9/17: Trumpet sectional
Week of Sept. 21	9/22: Evolution of Big Bands Cont. 9/24: Trombone sectional
Week of Sept. 28	9/29: Improv class (solo sections of charts)

	10/1: Saxophone sectional
Week of Oct. 5	10/6: Jazz pedagogy for music educators 10/8: Learn songs by ear
Week of Oct. 12	10/13: Learn songs by ear 10/15: Learn songs by ear
Week of Oct. 19	10/20: Call and response exercises/transcription battle! 10/22: Call and response continued; pass ideas around the virtual classroom
Week of Oct. 26	10/27: Listening Exercises; 3 versions of the same song and respond to essential questions 10/29: Listening exercises continued
Week of Nov. 2	Begin multi-tracking (rhythm section)
Week of Nov. 9	Multi-tracking TBD
Week of Nov. 16	Multi-tracking TBD
Week of Nov. 23	<b>Thanksgiving Recess</b>
Week of Nov. 30	Mixing and mastering Moving forward to next semester

**The instructor's goals for this ensemble are to: (will be adapted to online learning)**

- 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 Policies for Online Learning**

1. Students must be in attendance and on time for all online classes. If sickness or an emergency situation requires that the student be absent from a class, the student must email the instructor at least one hour prior to class at [john.mastroianni@uconn.edu](mailto:john.mastroianni@uconn.edu). 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. Cell phones are to be turned off and not used during classes. "Texting" and digital distractions during class are not permitted.

3. Any music disseminated 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.

4. Students are expected to act responsibly and professionally at all times.

### **Grading Policy**

*Your grade will be based upon:*

- Demonstrated effort in online class, online sectionals, and personal practice. Practicing excellence is cultivated and expected at all times.
- Class demeanor: ensemble members are expected to conduct themselves as professionals. This includes being prompt, tuned up and ready to play at the designated starting time, having a pencil, your music, mutes, etc. To avoid unnecessary ambient noise, please keep your microphones on "mute" unless otherwise instructed. No cell phones please!!!
- Participation: attendance is mandatory at all classes, except in the case of illness, or with prior consent of the instructor.

### **Grading:**

- Class Participation: 50%
- Assignments (listening, multi-tracking): 30%
- Personal Achievement: 20%

### **Students with Disabilities**

Please contact me during office hours to discuss academic accommodations that may be needed during the semester due to a documented disability.

The Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) engages in an interactive process with each student and reviews requests for accommodations on an individualized, case-by-case basis. Depending on the nature and functional limitations of a student's documented disability, he/she may be eligible for academic accommodations. CSD

collaborates with students and their faculty to coordinate approved accommodations and services for qualified students with disabilities. If you have a documented disability for which you wish to request academic accommodations and have not contacted the CSD, please do so as soon as possible. The CSD is located in Wilbur Cross, Room 204 and can be reached at (860) 486-2020 or at [csd@uconn.edu](mailto:csd@uconn.edu). Detailed information regarding the process to request accommodations is available on the CSD website at [www.csd.uconn.edu](http://www.csd.uconn.edu). For more information, contact: Kim McKeown at [kimberly.mckeown@uconn.edu](mailto:kimberly.mckeown@uconn.edu)

### **University of Connecticut Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Related Interpersonal Violence**

The University of Connecticut (the “University”) is committed to maintaining a safe and nondiscriminatory learning, living, and working environment for all members of the University community – students, employees, and visitors. Academic and professional excellence can exist only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of safety and mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination, discriminatory harassment or interpersonal violence. Discrimination diminishes individual dignity and impedes equal employment and educational opportunities. The University does not unlawfully discriminate in any of its education or employment programs and activities on the basis of an individual’s race, color, ethnicity, religious creed, age, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, genetic information, physical or mental disability (including learning disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and past or present history of mental illness), veteran’s status, prior conviction of a crime, workplace hazards to the reproductive system, gender identity or expression, or membership in any other protected classes as set forth in state or federal law. To that end, this Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence, Including Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment, Sexual Assault, Sexual Exploitation, Intimate Partner Violence, Stalking, Complicity, Retaliation and Inappropriate Amorous Relationships (the “Policy Against Discrimination” or “Policy”) prohibits specific forms of behavior that violate state and federal laws, including but not limited to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (“Title VII”), Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”), the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (“VAWA”), and related state and federal antidiscrimination laws. Such behavior may also require the University to fulfill certain reporting obligations under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (the “Clery Act”), as amended by VAWA, and Connecticut state law regarding reporting suspected child abuse and neglect. The University prohibits discrimination, as well as discriminatory harassment, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, intimate partner violence, stalking, sexual or gender-based harassment, complicity in the commission of any act prohibited by this Policy, retaliation against a person for the good faith reporting of any of these forms of conduct or participation in any investigation or proceeding under this Policy (collectively, “Prohibited Conduct”<sup>1</sup>).

These forms of Prohibited Conduct are unlawful and undermine the mission and values of our academic community. In addition, engagement in or pursuit of inappropriate amorous relationships with employees in positions of authority can undermine the University's mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority.

**Please be certain to keep current with university communications with regard to 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

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

Thanks in advance for your enthusiasm and dedication during these extraordinary times and always! Have an awesome semester!