

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

Director: John Mastroianni

Office Location: MU 117

Office Hour: Tuesday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment

Phone: (860) 486-4796

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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. This semester's focus will be the music of women composers such as Maria Schneider, Christine Jensen, Erica Seguire, Miho Hazama, Jen Allen, and others. Compositions and arrangements by students and faculty are encouraged and will also be represented.

Course Length: Fall Semester 2019

Rehearsal Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:45 P.M. Room 109

Fall 2019 Performance Dates

Sunday, September 29...Jazz Showcase Concert in VDM @ 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, October 27...Jazz Combos Concert in VDW @ 5:00 P.M. (FYI)

Sunday, November 10...Jazz Ensemble Concert in VDM @ 5:00 P.M.

Sunday, November 17...Jazz Lab Band Concert in VDM @ 5:00 P.M. (FYI)

November...possible tour dates TBA

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 and on time for all rehearsals and performances. 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 message should be left at least one hour prior to the rehearsal at 486-4796. 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, student 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%
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- Policy Against Discrimination, Harassment and Related Interpersonal Violence—The University is committed to maintaining an environment free of discrimination or discriminatory harassment directed toward any person or group within its community – students, employees, or visitors. Academic and professional excellence can flourish only when each member of our community is assured an atmosphere of mutual respect. All members of the University community are responsible for the maintenance of an academic and work environment in which people are free to learn and work without fear of discrimination or discriminatory harassment. In addition, inappropriate amorous relationships can undermine the University’s mission when those in positions of authority abuse or appear to abuse their authority. To that end, and in accordance with federal and state law, the University prohibits discrimination and discriminatory harassment, as well as inappropriate amorous relationships, and such behavior will be met with appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal from the University. Additionally, to protect the campus community, all non-confidential University employees (including faculty) are required to report sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and/or stalking involving a student that they witness or are told about to the Office of Institutional Equity. The University takes all reports with the utmost seriousness. Please be aware that while the information you provide will remain private, it will not be confidential and will be shared

with University officials who can help. More information is available at equity.uconn.edu and titleix.uconn.edu.

- Attendance—UConn has a unique attendance policy: Where grades depend on classroom participation, absences may affect the student's grade. However, if a student were absent and the instructor reduced the grade, the reduction would be due to lack of class participation, not the student's absence. Except for final examinations, instructors have final authority in permitting students to submit assignments late or make up examinations. Students should contact their instructor with any questions.
- Student Conduct Code—Students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with UConn's Student Conduct Code.
- Academic Integrity Statement—This course expects all students to act in accordance with the Guidelines for Academic Integrity at the University of Connecticut. Because questions of intellectual property are important to the field of this course, we will discuss academic honesty as a topic and not just a policy. If you have questions about academic integrity or intellectual property, you should consult with your instructor. Additionally, consult UConn's guidelines for academic integrity.
- Copyright—In accordance with the Office of the Attorney General in Storrs, my lectures, notes, handouts, and displays are protected by state common law and federal copyright law. They are my own original expression and I've recorded them prior or during my lecture in order to ensure that I obtain copyright protection. Students are authorized to take notes in my class; however, this authorization extends only to making one set of notes for your own personal use and no other use. I will inform you as to whether you are authorized to record my lectures at the beginning of each semester. If you are so authorized to record my lectures, you may not copy this recording or any other material, provide copies of either to anyone else, or make commercial use of them without prior permission from me.
- Students with Disabilities—The University of Connecticut is committed to protecting the rights of individuals with disabilities and assuring that the learning environment is accessible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. Students who require accommodations should contact the Center for Students with Disabilities, Wilbur Cross Building Room 204, (860) 486-2020, or <http://csd.uconn.edu/>.

- Makeup Work for Legitimate Absences—Note that UConn does not have an attendance policy (except in relation to the final exam); students will be allowed to make up work for excused absences.
- Final Exam Policy— In accordance with UConn policy, students are required to be available for their final exam and/or complete an assessment during the time stated. If you have a conflict with this time you must obtain official permission to schedule a make-up exam with the Dean of Students. If permission is granted, the Dean of Students will notify the instructor. Please note that vacations, previously purchased tickets or reservations, graduations, social events, misreading the assessment schedule, and oversleeping are not viable reasons for rescheduling a final.

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 to making great music!
Have an awesome semester!