

Instrumental Methods IV: Jazz Band

570:164
Spring 2009
Chris Merz

Class meeting time and location: W 11 AM, RSL 68

Contact information: 273-3077, merz@uni.edu, RSL 191 Office hours TBA

Required Texts:

1. Lawn, The Jazz Ensemble Director's Manual
2. Washut/Merz, Instrumental Jazz Pedagogy (course pack, available from Copyworks)

Supplementary texts on reserve (by the start of the second week of classes):

1. Sherman, Techniques and Materials for the Stage Band
2. Kuzmich and Bash, Complete Guide to Instrumental Jazz Instruction
3. Ferguson, The Jazz-Rock Ensemble
4. Henry, The Jazz Ensemble
5. IAJE, Teaching Jazz: A Course of Study
6. Schuler, So You Want to Lead a Jazz Band?
7. Berry, The Jazz Ensemble Director's Handbook
8. Dunscomb and Hill, Jazz Pedagogy
9. Jarvis and Beach, The Jazz Educator's Handbook.
10. Liebman, On Education, The Saxophone, and Related Jazz Topics.
11. Houghton, A Guide for the Modern Rhythm Section
12. Berg, Fischer, et al, Rhythm Section Workshop for Jazz Directors

Topics

1. History and justification of the school jazz ensemble
2. The sections of the jazz band: sax, brass and rhythm
3. Music sources/selecting music
4. Rehearsal techniques (psychology, score prep, planning, phrasing/articulation, etc.)
5. Basic jazz theory (chord construction/notation/chord scales)
6. Teaching basic improvisation
7. Big band styles (aural ID of important bands whose music is available for educational use)

Objectives

1. Students will become familiar with a cross section of jazz teaching materials and important big band repertoire.
2. Students will demonstrate a basic understanding of jazz articulation.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of basic jazz band rehearsal and score preparation techniques.
4. Students will gain a basic working knowledge of jazz theory.

Grading

1. Attendance
2. 4 assignments: 3 book reports, and Tallcorn adjudication (60% @ 15% each)
3. Rehearsal and lab critique (20%)
4. Final exam (20%)

Required observation

Students in this course are required to complete 6.25 hours of observation in the schools. For this course, students must observe jazz band rehearsals at any of the area high schools or junior high schools. Use the form in the course pack (photocopy as needed) to verify your compliance with this requirement. Failure to complete the required observations will result in failure of this course.

Activities/Assignments

1. Lecture/Demonstration
2. Supplemental reading: 3 book reviews (selected from supplementary text list above)
3. Reading of required text and course packet
4. Evaluation of 3 bands @ Tallcorn Jazz Festival (Feb. 19-20); summary of clinic sessions
5. Jazz phrasing/articulation (mark/sing/play a jazz etude)-final exam
6. Rehearsal lab w/a/ UNI Jazz Band
 - a. select a chart (or portion thereof) from "the box" (consult w/directors)
 - b. write a detailed rehearsal plan; prepare the score thoroughly
 - c. rehearse for 20 minutes, video recording your segment
 - d. review the video recording and write a self-critique
7. Aural analysis: Identification of important big bands (Bring CD for duplication: "drop the needle" test—part of final exam)

Due Dates

1. February 4, Book Report #1
2. February 18, Book Report #2
3. February 25, Tallcorn Jazz Festival adjudications
4. March 11, Book Report #3
5. April 30 Rehearsal labs with UNI Jazz Bands II/III
6. May 5, Final exam (10-11:50 AM); self-critiques of rehearsal lab and observation hours due

CD Sequence

1. Buddy Rich-Groovin' Hard (shuffle-note short, tight ensemble approach)-early 70's
2. Thad Jones-Mel Lewis-Groove Merchant (shuffle-roots in Basie tradition)-late 60's
3. Woody Herman-Four Brothers (classic up swing)-mid 60's
4. Count Basie-Basie Straight Ahead (classic med. Swing Basie style)-late 60's
5. Duke Ellington-Harlem Airshaft (note colorful, expressive sounds-growls, hot vibrato, etc.)-early 40's
6. Frankie Capp-Nat Pierce Juggernaut-Moten Swing (emulation of Basie style swing)-70's
7. Bob Mintzer—Heart of the Matter (L.A. studio sound—rock groove)-early 80's
8. Mingus Big Band—Boogie Stop Shuffle (loose riff based blues)-90's

ODS

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students requesting instructional accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodations through Student Disability Services. The SDS Office is located at 103 Student Health Center. Phone is: 273-2676 (voice) 273-3011 (TTY); Email: disabilityservices@uni.edu