

Syllabus

Mus 1071

Email: jimlevy@gwu.edu

Rehearsals, Mon 8:30-10:30,

B-160

Professor James LevyJazz Band (aka King James
and the Serfs of Swing
Music Office 202-994-6245

Mus 1071 Jazz Band**Course Description**

The band concentrates on Jazz from the 1920's and 1930's with an emphasis on Ellington, Basie and Calloway. It is important for band members to own recordings of these bands and to actively listen to them and to study them. All members of the band should be actively engaged in developing their skills as improvising soloists. Attendance at the Friday noon jam sessions is an ideal forum for this development. In rehearsal, the sax and brass sections learn to improvise riffs together, both as backgrounds to other soloists, and also as a way of creating "head" arrangements.

The band's objective is not only to present the best possible musical renditions, but also to perform in such a way that is conducive to swing dancing, and to always give a presentation that is entertaining.

It is a requirement that you own a metronome. It is also helpful to have some jazz play along sets such as Vol 1. Jazz: How to Play and Improve, or Vol 54: Maiden Voyage available from Jamey Aebersold (Jazzbooks.com)

Expected Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives

On completing study of Jazz band the student will be able to:

Musicianship and Performance

1. Demonstrate proper rehearsal behavior.
2. Perform a set of swing band repertoire drawn from the bands of Basie, Ellington and other bands of the classic swing era.
3. Solo over the blues form.
4. Extemporize "riffs," that is background figures, behind a soloist.

Department of Music Performance Study Attendance Policy

Please bear in mind that attendance at rehearsals is not just for you to learn your part, but for your part to be present so that the other musicians can learn how your part fits in with theirs. Missing a rehearsal also means that you don't know what improvised developments have taken place that night. Your grade in this course is decided 50% by attendance and 50% by my assessment of your performance.

An unexcused absence occurs when you give me less than 24 hours notice or when the reason for the absence is not worthy (in my opinion). If you play 1st trumpet, lead alto, drums or bass you must get a substitute for yourself and you must get your sub approved by me.

(Syllabus Levy Mus 1071 P.2)

Jam Session – Regular attendance at and participation in the jam session (Fridays noon - 2pm in room B-120) is expected of all students studying Jazz Performance Techniques. This is a performance event. You must know your tune(s), and have them ready for a complete performance, with all the preparation that is required to achieve that end. Students should attend at least one professional jazz performance per semester.

Academic Integrity

I personally support the GW Code of Academic Integrity. It states: "Academic dishonesty is defined as cheating of any kind, including misrepresenting one's own work, taking credit for the work of others without crediting them and without appropriate authorization, and the fabrication of information." For the remainder of the code, see: "<http://www.gwu.edu/~ntegrity/code.html>"

Support for Students Outside the Classroom

DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)

Any student who may need an accommodation based on the potential impact of a disability should contact the Disability Support Services office at 202-994-8250 in the Marvin Center, Suite 242, to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations. For additional information please refer to: "<http://gwired.gwu.edu/dss/>"

UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER (UCC) 202-994-5300

The University Counseling Center (UCC) offers 24/7 assistance and referral to address students' personal, social, career, and study skills problems. Services for students include: crisis and emergency mental health consultations
confidential assessment, counseling services (individual and small group), and referrals

Security

In the case of an emergency, if at all possible, the class should shelter in place. If the building that the class is in is affected, follow the evacuation