



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Te Kōkī New Zealand School of Music

PERF 121 *Jazz Improvisation 1* **15 POINTS**

Trimester 1 & 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 29 February to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 29 February to 16 October 2016

Easter break: 24 to 30 March 2016

Mid-trimester break: 25 April to 1 May 2016

Mid-year break: 30 June to 8 July 2016

Mid-trimester break 2/3: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 12 November 2016

Study period: 17 to 20 October 2016

Examination/Assessment Period: 21 October to 12 November 2016

Note: students who enrol in courses with examinations must be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the scheduled examination period.

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

Class times and locations

Monday, 10:30am–12:00pm (Room KP91/103)

Wednesday, 1:40pm–3:10pm (Room KP91/103)

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator: Mark Donlon

Contact phone: 463 5233 ext 35814 **Email:** mark.donlon@vuw.ac.nz

Office located at: KP91, Room 304

Office hours: By appointment

Programme Administrator: Berys Cuncannon **Email:** berys.cuncannon@vuw.ac.nz

Communication of additional information

Official notices issued after the course has commenced will be posted on the Jazz noticeboard in 91 Kelburn Parade. Notices concerning a number of courses will also be posted on Blackboard. The Course Coordinator will specify if Blackboard will be used.

Prescription

Development of the knowledge and skills required for competent jazz improvisation using standard jazz language.

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who have successfully completed this course will:

1. demonstrate competency in the theory and application of the principles of jazz improvisation
2. apply prescribed elements of the jazz language to a jazz improvisation
3. play improvised solos over standard forms at a range of tempi using jazz vocabulary appropriate to their instruments
4. transcribe, notate and perform an improvised solo from a given recording.

These learning objectives contribute to the NZSM Graduate Attributes. For a full list, please see www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/graduate-attributes

Teaching format

24 x 1.5 hour classes

See attached course syllabus for more information including the marking criteria. These will also be available on Blackboard.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- a) pass all items of assessment specified for this course, with a minimum of 50%, on or by the specified dates

Justification: Improvisational skills are central to all jazz learning and a thorough grasp of the principles is essential to all aspects of jazz performance.

- b) attend at least 80% of lectures, tutorials and workshops related to this course unless absence is due to verified medical reasons or advance permission for absence has been given by the teacher/lecturer.

Justification: The learning in this course is experiential and accumulative and absences from class may result in the student being unable to keep up with the work.

For performance courses assessed by recitals, an aegrotat cannot apply. Instead, the student (with the written approval of the teacher and the Programme Leader, Jazz) must apply to the Director NZSM to have his/her assessment delayed. Any such delayed assessment must be completed prior to the start of the following trimester.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the mandatory course requirements because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible

Workload

A 15-point full-year course should require at least 150 hours work (including class time). This means that in term time, the midterm break and study week you should be prepared to spend on average 5 hours per week involved in activities such as attending classes, reading, listening to recommended recordings and preparing assignments.

Assessment

Assessment details for this offering

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
<i>Practical improvisation assessment 1</i>	20%	1, 2, 3.	3 June 2016
<i>Practical improvisation assessment 2</i>	20%	1, 2, 3.	14 October 2016
<i>Transcription and notation of a set solo</i>	10%	4	23 September 2016
<i>Final practical assessment</i>	50%	1, 2, 3.	11 November 2016

Submission and return of work

Assignments should be deposited in Mark Donlon's mailbox located in the foyer of the Music Block.

Marked assignments may be collected from the office.

Assignments will normally be marked and returned within three weeks of submission.

Extensions and penalties

Extensions

Students, who for exceptional reasons can justify an extension for an item of assessment, must apply to the Course Coordinator *before* the due date. Please note that no extensions can be granted for tutorial assignments.

Penalties

Assignments must be submitted by the due dates. In fairness to other students, unless a medical certificate is produced, assessment submitted after 5pm on the due date will be subject to a 5% demerit on your grade, increasing by 5% each further working day it is overdue.

Materials and equipment and/or additional expenses

Students should bring their instruments or in the case of singers, a microphone to classes.

Students are advised to equip themselves with a P.C./laptop/mac with software such as

'Transcribe (or similar) in order to best learn and study set materials.

Set texts

Refer to 'recommended reading' below.

Recommended reading

Coker, Jerry. (1986). *Improvising Jazz*. New York: Simon and Schuster

Levine, Mark. (1989). *The Jazz Piano Book*. Petaluma, Ca: Sher Music Company

Coker, Jerry. (1980). *The Complete Method of Improvisation*. Lebanon, In: PR Incorporated

Coker, Jerry. *Elements of the Jazz Language* CPP/Belwin, Inc, Miami Fl 33014

Aebersold, Jamey. (1979). *A New Approach To Jazz Improvisation Vol.1*. New Albany, IN: Jamey

Aebersold Publications

Class representative

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course.

Student feedback

While the workload for this course is substantial, students rated it as very good overall and highly valued what they were taught.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- NZSM Student Handbook and NZSM Guidelines for Presenting Academic Work: www.nzsm.ac.nz/student-zone/student-guides
- Scholarships and prizes relevant to NZSM students: www.nzsm.ac.nz/study-careers/scholarships-and-prizes

Events

Regular events are held during trimesters 1 & 2. These events are for the benefit of all students, and include performances, masterclasses, special lectures and workshops given by staff, students and visiting artists. All students are expected to keep time free to attend the weekly lunchtime concert on Friday at 12.10pm, along with other events as required.

Students should sign up to the **Dawn Chorus**, the NZSM's events e-newsletter, by emailing events@vuw.ac.nz with 'subscribe dawn chorus' in the subject line.

Website: www.nzsm.ac.nz/events