POLICIES

In order to create a ‘first rate’-jazz ensemble, it takes a high degree of commitment on the part of everyone involved. It is hoped that everybody realizes that this ensemble is going to be demanding, both in areas of ability and commitment of time. At this stage in your career the definition of commitment does not need to be elaborated upon. Your attendance is mandatory for all performances and rehearsals. This will also include a mandatory sectional rehearsal each week. As I do recognize that everyone gets ill at times: my fault; your fault; nobody’s fault; if you do not attend a rehearsal the entire sessions effectiveness becomes compromised. Anyone missing rehearsal for the legitimate reason of illness must let me know the day of rehearsal, or no later than 2:00 P.M. the following day, so that you may be excused from practice. Any unexcused absence from rehearsal or performance is unacceptable and may result in expulsion from participation in the jazz ensembles at the discretion of the director.

Department of Music sanctioned events are excused absences from rehearsals but not performances. These events are posted on the department calendar. Please let me know when a departmental function (performance) conflicts with rehearsal. This is also true for night exams, and tests scheduled in other majors outside of music. Please notify the director and instructor immediately if you have exams that will conflict with the performance schedule. If you have a legitimate reason that prevents you from attending rehearsal (with prior approval from the director,) you need to make arrangements for someone to play your part in the rehearsal, and make sure that your music is available. No matter the circumstance you need to make sure that your music is available even if you are not. This responsibility is yours alone, and is one of the most important responsibilities in this profession. Generally our sound check for concerts will be on Tuesday the day before the concert. If guest artist are present we may schedule a sound check the day of the concert at 6:00PM. Dress for concerts is “all black”. No color ties or hats etc.

GRADING

Your grade will be determined by your preparation and performance of part assignments as directed by me. You will be required to demonstrate your knowledge/understanding of listening assignments and assigned improvisation study. This will include; transcription, theory, patterns and technical assignments that you must work on mastering outside of rehearsal. My assessment of your work in these areas will be measured by how well you transfer these skills in performances that we give in the recital hall.

Section rehearsals and combos (especially for rhythm section players and improvisation soloists) are a necessary part of getting our bands to play cohesively. Though technically this is not a requirement for the jazz ensembles, your willingness and desire to participate in groups outside of rehearsal such as combos is strongly recommended. It is required that you must participate in one of the department jazz bands in order to participate in the combos. Professor Giles will make the determination for who will play in these groups. You must register for his course and arrange your schedule to participate. Grading for jazz ensemble and combo will be separate. If you have a documented disability and anticipate needing accommodations in this course, please make arrangements to meet with me soon. Please request that a Student Disability Resource staff send a SAAR form verifying your disability and specifying the accommodation you will need.

DATES

Feb. 17, Break Set for Des Moines Big Band
Feb. 19, METRH 7:30PM Jazz I & II
Feb. 20-23 Elmhurst Jazz Festival.
Feb. 20, METRH 7:30PM Jazz I & II
April 23, METRH 7:30PM Jazz I & II