Objectives & Policies

You must be registered for the course in order to participate in the ensemble. This ensemble will focus on rehearsing and performing important works in the large jazz ensemble genre which fall within these criteria – a piece of standard jazz repertoire, something written by an important composer, and/or something set by an important arranger. You are expected to be at every rehearsal and every performance. Failure to do so will not only affect your grade in the course, but will also let down your fellow bandmates. Other courses may present a conflict with our rehearsal time and scheduled performances. These situations need to be brought to my attention immediately. Department of Music sanctioned events are legitimate excuses for missing rehearsals, not performances, and the legitimacy of the excuse will ultimately be assessed by me.

Attendance and participation at all Fall 2017 performances is required. The following dates listed will also require same-day dress rehearsals and other logistical things, tbd: October 11th in Martha Ellen Tye recital hall @ 7:30, November 13th at Roosevelt HS in Des Moines @ 8:00, November 15th in Martha Ellen Tye recital @ 7:30, November 30 at the IMU Maintenance Shop @ 8:00, Invite your friends and family to attend our performances. Live webcasting is available through the Department of Music for each concert we play in the MET Recital Hall.

You are expected to have the “nuts and bolts” of each piece mastered while developing the appropriate style and interpretation throughout the process. Improvised solo opportunities will be given to those members that work on the changes, play passionately, and attempt to inspire fellow bandmates. Sectionals may be called on occasion and section leaders will lead those rehearsals. These can be held in rooms 254, 256, and 002. Reservations are necessary.

You are responsible for your folder & music. Your instrument must be in working order for every rehearsal. You are highly encouraged to have equipment that will lend your playing to an authentic jazz sound (mouthpieces, mutes, effects, etc.) Drums and amplifiers are available in the jazz cage. Everyone is responsible for his or her own folder, chair, and stand – both in setup and tear down. Bring a pencil and use it. With regards to concert attire; gentlemen are required to wear a black suit and tie, ladies are required to wear concert black. Reference recordings and performance media will be posted on our CyBox account. See me for additional guidance regarding approaches to improvising, playing certain styles, investigating other recordings, etc. Office hours with me are available by appointment. Work hard and have fun playing this music.
The Practice Room is for learning your part.
The Rehearsal Time is for learning everyone else's part.

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.

Grading Criteria

Grading considerations include attendance, perceived effort, preparation, and attitude. I will excuse your absence if you provide justification to me (face to face or via phone) before the rehearsal begins. I will not accept an emailed excuse, but would appreciate the reminder. Each unexcused absence from rehearsal will result in your grade being lowered a full letter grade. Unexcused absences from a performance may result in a severe drop in your grade. Doctor’s notes, athletic band performances, and exams in other classes are often excused absences. Working a shift at your job, attending athletic events or participating in Greek socials are not considered excused absences.

Learning Outcomes

The student will demonstrate the ability to perform a variety of music with attention to several musical factors, including style, articulation, dynamics, blend and balance, intonation, rhythm, and phrasing. The student will acquire knowledge of the repertoire to be performed, including a historical and cultural context. The student will demonstrate the ability to successfully contribute in a cooperative learning environment.

Media Release

As a member of a Department of Music ensemble, we assume that you waive the right for your image and related audio for use in advertising/marketing for Iowa State University. If this is not acceptable, you must notify your course instructor and the department chair, in writing, by the 10th day of the semester.