
subject catalogue S23 K24

course code JMX115

name of course

Jazz Theory and Solfeggio

specification

for Music Education BA level, elective for others at BA level

academic instructor

L.Kanter

prerequisite course

no of terms

2

contact hr/total

60.0

hr/term

30.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

4.00

Lect

0.0

Grp

60.0

Ind

0.0

Sem

0.0

Pract

0.0

graded or pass/fail exams

A

E

term

1

2

ECTS

2.00

2.00

aim of the subject

To provide essential up-to-date basic knowledge of the theoretical foundations of jazz and rhythm music through practical activities (dictations, progressions, analyses, transcriptions, singing, rhythm tapping etc.).

content

The course teaches the theoretical basics of jazz improvisation and writing of jazz music as well as their application in practice. The most important part of the course is “ear training” (jazz solfeggio). The programme also includes functional piano playing to learn simple piano voicings in the style of jazz music.

learning outcomes

On completion of the subject, students will:

- have basic knowledge of jazz theory, harmony, articulation and rhythmic
- be able to analytically listen to jazz compositions and transcribe them, if needed
- be able to read from a score and write down rhythm combinations distinctive of jazz music
- be able to harmonise melodies on the basic level in the musical language distinctive of the style of jazz
- be able to critically assess the available (printed) material

assessment

Differentiated and non-differentiated assessment. Three tests will be completed in both semesters, to demonstrate the student's acquired knowledge in jazz theory and analysis of form and harmony as well as their harmonisation and reharmonisation skills.

At the end of each semester, students are expected to perform graded dictation and singing tests (melody, rhythm).

Examination consists of an oral and written part. The written part consists of three dictations: melodic, harmonic and rhythmic dictation. The oral part includes prima vista singing and rhythm tapping. Both parts of the examination also include casual questions about the acquired theory.

assessment criteria

Semester I – non-differentiated assessment

A positive assessment result is obtained when the students:

- achieve positive results in the three tests
- achieve positive results in the graded dictations
- achieve positive results in the required singing tests

Semester II – differentiated assessment:

Tests and participation in lectures determine 40% of the grade, while 60% of the grade depends on the examination result.

Grade "Excellent" (A):

- Dictations are 100% correct
- Fluent singing with a good sense of jazz
- Outstanding knowledge of jazz music and impeccable theoretical knowledge

Grade “Very Good” (B):

- All parts of the examination are at least 85% correct
- The singing test is completed without mistakes
- No shortcomings in theoretical knowledge

Grade “Good” (C):

- Different parts of the examination obtain different assessment results, but the general level of knowledge is good and the singing is fluent.

Grade “Satisfactory” (D):

- Dictations are at least 70% correct
- There are mistakes in singing and theory tests, but these are still carried out in an understandable manner

Grade “Sufficient” (E):

- Dictations are at least 60% correct
- Singing is performed in the wrong tempo, but with correct sound heights
- Theoretical knowledge is fragmented

To obtain a positive assessment result, students are also required to actively participate in academic work during the semester (attending lectures).

course reading material

Kustas Kikerpuu, Jazzharmonia

Barrie Nettles, Harmony 3 Workbook

Mark Levine, The Jazz Theory Book

author of course description

Teet Raik