
subject catalogue S23 K24

course code JMX150

name of course

Jazz Line Writing

specification

elective course for Jazz Music specialty BA or MA level

academic instructor

A.Paal

prerequisite course

JMX101, JMX110, JMX120, JMX140

no of terms

2

contact hr/total

30.0

hr/term

15.0

hr/week

2.0

ECTS/total

4.00

Lect

0.0

Grp

30.0

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

The course aims to further improve the quality of improvisational skills by learning how to write authentic melodies based on the jazz tradition.

content

Variety of jazz styles will be covered (from blues to post-bop). Different musical forms, key signatures, tempos and meters will be examined. The subject is performance-oriented. Students will have weekly writing assignments which they'll have to perform on their main instruments in front of the whole study group. Sight reading skills will be put to test as everyone's homework will get played by everyone. Notation skills will be also put to test.

learning outcomes

During the two semesters students will acquire knowledge and technique to improvise using authentic melodic devices and proper jazz vocabulary. Weekly assignments will help to cultivate a writing/practicing routine and raise the productivity of the students.

assessment

Fall semester (A1): To achieve a positive assessment result students are required to attend at least 80% of lectures, complete weekly writing assignments on schedule and perform their work in front of the study group.

Spring semester (E2): Students are allowed to take the exam and get a grade if their lecture attendance was not lower than 80% and when all the previous tasks have been completed. Attendance and participation accounts for 50% of the final grade, the other half is determined by the exam result. The exam is comprised of several final writing assignments: the students will have to notate and perform jazz improvisations based on harmonic progressions given by the teacher. The work has to include various musical elements (melodic approaches, rhythmic components, articulations etc) that have been covered throughout the academic year.

assessment criteria

(A1): Active participation ($\geq 80\%$) and completion of all the assignments are needed to get a positive assessment result.

Spring semester (E2): Active participation ($\geq 80\%$) and completion of all the assignments are needed to enter the exam.

Grade A (excellent): The final work includes musical elements that are authentic to the required style(s). The student is able to construct legitimate melodies based on the jazz tradition and is able to justify his/her note choices. Music has been notated properly by following all the rules, is presented clearly and is easy to read. Performance is flawless.

Grade B (very good): The final work includes most of the musical elements covered during the course, small part of techniques/methods is missing or used inappropriately. The student is able to construct melodies, but his/her

understanding of style and jazz tradition is not excellent. The student is able to justify his/her note choices. Music has been notated properly and is easy to read. Performance is flawless.

Grade C (good): The final work includes most of the musical elements covered during the course, but several techniques/methods are missing or used inappropriately. The student is able to construct melodies, but his/her understanding of style and jazz tradition is not very good. The student is able to justify most of his/her note choices. Music notation has some inaccuracies but is largely readable. Performance is somewhat faulty and has some mistakes.

Grade D (satisfactory): The final work includes sufficient amount of the musical elements covered during the course, but numerous techniques/methods are missing or used inappropriately. The student is able to construct melodies, but his/her understanding of style and jazz tradition is not good. The student is able to justify only some of his/her note choices. Music notation has lots of inaccuracies and is hard to read. Performance is inadequate.

Grade E (sufficient): The final work doesn't include sufficient amount of the musical elements covered during the course, most techniques/methods are missing or used inappropriately. The student is not able to construct melodies, his/her understanding of style and jazz tradition is not satisfactory. The student is not able to justify his/her note choices. Music notation has lots of inaccuracies and is hard to read. Performance is beneath consideration.

course reading material

author of course description

A.Paal