

MUSC 2270 – Jazz Improvisation II

Common Course Outline

I. Reviewed: Spring 2007

I. Catalog Description:

This course is the second in a two-part sequence. Jazz Improvisation II provides students with the skills necessary to create music with self-expression in advanced jazz styles. The course includes continued practical application of scales, arpeggios, and melodic lines to the student's instrument. Transcribing and analyzing solos from recording by famous jazz artists and independent study with tutorial computer programs are required. Listening and performing in class are major components of the course. Prereq.: MUSC 1170..

II. Recommended Entry Skills and Knowledge:

- A. Understanding of music notation, keys, and major scales.
- B. Previous experience playing an instrument.
- C. Consent of instructor.

III. Course Content:

- A. Scales: Major, minor (Dorian), Mixolydian, Diminished (Minor w/b5th), Augmented (Major w/# 5th) Pentatonic (Major and Minor), Whole Tone.
- B. Arpeggios:
 - 1. based on preceding scales
 - 2. triads and seventh chords
- C. Advanced jazz styles: rhythm changes, ballad, bossa nova, Coltrane matrix, free playing.
- D. Listening: studying jazz recordings.
- E. Computer applications: work on terminology and computer software programs including Jamey Aebersold Improvisation Series; Smart Music; Band-In-A-Box.
- F. Learn jazz standards: melodies and chord progressions.
- G. Application of chord symbols to jazz standards.
- H. Transcribe recorded examples of improvised jazz solos.

IV. Student Learning Outcomes:

In order to complete this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Perform all scales and arpeggios covered in the course on his/her instrument. (MNTC goal 2d)
- B. Understand rhythm changes, ballads, bossa novas, Coltrane matrix and free playing. (MNTC goal 2c)
- C. Independently produce and create an improvisation in advanced styles from chord symbols and a given melody. (MNTC goal 2c)
- D. Correctly identify recorded examples of jazz standards, using appropriate terminology and identification of style. (MNTC goal 2c)
- E. Accurately transcribe a recorded solo by a jazz artist. (MNTC goal 2b)
- F. Fluently use computer applications and technology introduced in the course. (MNTC goal 2b)

V. Methods for Evaluation of Student Learning:

- A. Weekly evaluation of scales, arpeggios, and chord symbol recognition.
- B. Midterm and final exams, both written and performed.
- C. Transcription projects.

VI. Other Information: none