

University of Toronto
Faculty of Music
Jazz Program

Small Jazz Ensemble Guidelines and Course Requirements
2014-15
JMU 192Y, 292Y, 392Y, 492Y

Overview

The small jazz ensemble provides a vehicle to cultivate skills relevant to performance and improvisation as well as arranging and composition. Each ensemble meets for two hours a week with their ensemble coach, and one hour for an independent rehearsal.

Independent Rehearsal

Independent rehearsals provide an opportunity to develop collaborative attitudes and efficient rehearsal techniques. Both are required in the real world. Attendance at *all* rehearsals is mandatory. Attendance at independent rehearsals will be randomly checked by faculty throughout the year (academic penalties for missed rehearsals are outlined in **Evaluation** below).

Ensemble Placement

Each student will be placed in at least two ensembles. Most horn players and vocalists will be placed in one large and one small ensemble. R/S players not placed in a large ensemble will be placed in two small ensembles. Some R/S players may be asked to play in three ensembles.

Ensemble Requests

Prior to placement auditions, students may submit ensemble requests, according to the following guidelines:

- Requests must consist of full groups, including vocal and two horns. If more horns are requested, the players should be prepared to play in two small jazz ensembles if needed.
- All musicians listed must be aware of and agree to the request.
- Anyone listed in more than one request must indicate order of preference and whether you are willing to take on an additional ensemble, given the opportunity. This can be done in a separate email.
- Grad students are generally placed in one of two grad ensembles, however they may play in an undergrad ensemble. Similarly, undergrad students may sometimes be placed in a grad ensemble. The credit is equal.
- Requests are not guaranteed, but are considered first when assigning placements. Individual changes are sometimes necessary to accommodate scheduling.
- Include three faculty coaches in your request, as well as any intended musical focus for the group.

Repertoire

Each student is expected to contribute repertoire to the ensemble as per the direction of the ensemble leader. You are encouraged to use this opportunity to develop your composition and arranging skills— in the future you'll have to pay musicians to rehearse your music!

Performance

Each group is assigned performances both on and off campus. These performances are mandatory and essential components of the course and must take precedence over all other aspects of your life.

Attendance

Your attendance at every rehearsal affects the entire group. If you are not there—even if you send a sub—the effectiveness of the rehearsal is diminished and you disrespect the other members of the group. Absences will negatively impact your grade and more importantly, will degrade your reputation among your peers.

Recording

Numerous opportunities exist for recording the ensembles:

- Upper Jazz Studio and Rex performances will be recorded.
- The Composition Contest provides an opportunity to record the group in a live remote session. (see below)
- The U of T recording studio can be booked by contacting Peter Olsen peter.olsen@utoronto.ca

Dress Code

- For performances on school grounds, dress pants, dress shoes and are the minimum standard for men, concert dress or pants for women.
- For the REX, casual attire is acceptable, however you will always make a better impression if you dress up rather than down. You are on display both individually and as a member of the student body. Treat your appearance as seriously as you treat your music. Look like you sound good.

Composition Contest

In the second term, ensembles may submit demo recordings of original compositions. Jon Bartel Audio will record the best submissions at a live remote session. These are high-quality recordings, some of which may be posted on the U of T Jazz website. Basic mixing is included; full mix and master services are available from Jon at reasonable rates.

Evaluation

Students receive a numeric grade at the conclusion of this course. Your grade will be determined based on the following criteria:

- 40% Rehearsals: professional attitude and musical skill
- 40% Performances: skill level at performance including preparation of material
- 20% Contribution to group repertoire (minimum one piece per term)

Attendance: Students may miss one rehearsal a minimum 24 hour advanced notice is provided to the instructor. Following that each missed rehearsals will result in 10% penalty to the overall grade unless a Medical Doctor's note is provided. In any case, advanced notice must be provided and a capable sub from the U of T Jazz Student body must be arranged by the student. **A missed performance will result in 20% penalty to overall grade.**