



SYLLABUS: Jazz Styles and Analysis

Overview

This ten-week course is an online exploration of the more common styles and techniques used in jazz performance practice. Using videoconferencing, YouTube, recording devices, email, and live chat, the course aims to provide individualized instruction to participants. Transcriptions of each solo will be provided and analyzed in class with the instructor via videoconferencing. Students will have the opportunity to then create, compose, and/or record their own solo using the techniques analyzed in the previous week.

Note regarding pacing and workflow

For those who cannot attend regularly, an online class is an ideal learning solution. All material for all weeks will be available at the beginning of the class cycle. Assignments can be completed and submitted at any time. Choose your own study hours and work at your own pace, if you desire.

Week 1—Early Jazz

Topics explored: Blues, Two-Beat feel, Basic Harmony/Theory, voice leading

Solo Transcription: West End Blues – Louis Armstrong <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WPCBiSES1>

Week 2—Early Jazz contd...

Create your own solo on West End Blues using techniques from Louis Armstrong

Week 3—Swing Jazz

Topics Explored: Swing feel, rhythm changes, voice leading, Slight chromaticism, playing behind/on/on top of the beat

Solo Transcription: Lester Young – Lester Leaps In <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PaKH33E7zJM>

Week 4—Swing Jazz contd...

Create your own solo over rhythm changes using techniques from Lester Young

Week 5—Bebop

Topics Explored: Parker Blues, chordal substitutions, voice leading with extreme chromaticism,

Solo Transcription: Charlie Parker – Ko-Ko and Now's The Time <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=okrNwE6GI70>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryNtmkfeJk4&feature=related>

MIDTERM

The midterm will consist of a solo analysis not previously addressed in class.

Week 6—Bebop contd...

Create your own solo over Cherokee or a blues using extreme chromaticism and other techniques from Charlie Parker.

Week 7—Hard Bop

Topics Explored: Swing feel, blues devices, playing behind/on/on top of the beat, chromaticism

Solo Transcription: Bobby Timmons – This Here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RYDGzJDJeDI>

Week 8

Create your own solo over any standard (All The Things You Are, Stella By Starlight etc...) using techniques from Bobby Timmons and Charlie Parker.

Week 9—Modal

Topics Explored: Harmonic superimpositions, melody, phrasing

Solo Transcription: Miles Davis – So What and Michael Brecker – Impressions

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEC8nqT6Rrk>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lWIt4PtJwM0>

Week 10

Create your own solo over a modal tune such as Impressions, So What, or Milestones

FINAL

The final will consist of a solo analysis not previously addressed in class.

Note: Syllabus details subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.



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