Jazz Improvisation 2  
Music 246B, 2 credits  
MWF 9:00-10:00, Snow 153

Instructor:

Dr. Mark Watkins  
Snow 282G  
496-1261  
watkinism@byui.edu

Text:

Required:
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 4: Reeves 1
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 5: Reeves 2
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 6: Maiden Voyage
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 7: Early Jazz, Swing, Bebop, Cool
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 8: Hard Bop, Funky Jazz, Modal
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 9: Avant Garde, Fusion, Contemporary, Latin
- Jazz Improvisation: CD 10: Rhythm Changes

Access to a transcription program. Transcribe is available on the department’s practice room computers. The program can be purchased at www.seventhstring.com. Other programs include SlowGold and The Amazing Slowdowner.

Optional (strongly recommended):

Description:

This course covers the basic concepts necessary to play and teach the fundamentals of jazz improvisation. Emphasis is on jazz theory and ear training, articulation and style, listening and transcription, and their application to performance. The course continues Jazz Improvisation 1 delving into minor tonic, modal borrowing, altered dominants, diminished, rhythm changes, and pentatonics. Greater emphasis on application is made.

Objectives:

1. Develop and demonstrate fundamental skills in jazz articulation and phrasing through analysis, transcription, and teacher instruction of basic jazz performance tendencies.
2. Develop and demonstrate a fundamental understanding of the theoretical aspects of improvisation. Primary focus is on analyzing chord symbols and constructing improvisatory jazz scales and patterns.
3. Develop and demonstrate through hands-on experience the physical and intellectual skills necessary to perform appropriate melodic lines over advanced chord progressions. Primary emphasis is given to contemporary techniques, minor tonic, modal borrowing, altered dominants, diminished, rhythm changes, and pentatonics.
4. Establish specialized practice habits and develop skills for ear-training indicative to the needs of the jazz performer/educator through in and out of class exercises and through transcription.
5. Provide resource knowledge for the pedagogical techniques necessary to teach others rudimentary improvisation.
6. Application, application, application; learn by doing.

Topical Outline:

Chapter 16: Harmonic and Melodic Minor Scales, Minor (Major 7th) Chords
Chapter 8: Locrian and Aeolian Scales, and Minor ii°7-V7-i Progressions
Chapter 14: Diminished Scales, Diminished and Altered Dominant 7th Chords
Chapter 15: Whole-Tone Scales and Augmented Chords
Chapter 17: Locrian #2 and Diminished/Whole-Tone Scales, and Minor ii°7-V7-i Progressions
Chapter 9: Lydian and Phrygian Scales, Major 7th flat-5 Chords
Chapter 18: Lydian Augmented and Lydian Dominant Scales, and Major 7th sharp-5 and Dominant 9th sharp-11 Chords
Chapter 11: Sectional Forms and Rhythm Changes
Chapter 19: Pentatonic Scales

Listening: daily log, listen every day, no specified length of time
Readings and analysis: from text as above, add annotations to printed transcriptions and listen
Written Assignments: worksheets to initiate theoretical comprehension
Playing Test: application (scales, arpeggios, patterns), performed for TA with assessments given to the instructor
Piano Skills: minor, altered dominants, diminished voicings; minor ii V7 I voicings
Ear Training: complex scales, altered harmonies
Tune Learning (3), selected from: Blue Bossa, Summertime, Autumn Leaves, Cantelope Island, rhythm (student choice), Song for My Father, Footprints
Transcriptions (2): student choice, short standard, must include chord symbols, one at mid-term, one at final
Performance: above tunes, final tune utilizing principles of tune learning in workbook

Course Requirements and Prerequisites:

Completion of Jazz Improvisation 1 or consent of the instructor. Discipline and good practice habits. A desire to learn jazz.

Evaluation:

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<th>Component</th>
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<td>Readings</td>
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<td>Written Assignments</td>
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<td>Playing Tests</td>
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<td>Transcription 1</td>
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<td>Final Performance</td>
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Grade Value Percentages

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PLEASE NOTE: This syllabus is for the guidance of students only. It does not constitute a contract or an agreement of any sort between the instructor and the student. The instructor reserves the right to change any or all aspects of this course at any time for any reason.

In compliance with applicable disability law, qualified students with a disability may be entitled to “reasonable accommodation.” It is the student’s responsibility to disclose to the teacher any special need she/he may have before the end of the first week of class.