ATTENTION: This is a tour semester. We will be performing throughout southern California including Los Angeles and San Diego. Dates include April 11-26. All students accepted into Sound Alliance must commit to this event or ask to play in another ensemble; we cannot afford last minute or even mid-semester changes. Students must not be on academic probation and students must adhere strictly to the honor code. The university covers most of the expenses for campus tours but students are still assessed a fee. This year it is $410, which includes clothing (not concert grey pants). We will spend a day at Disneyland (tickets paid by the Department of Music) and attend a session at the San Diego Temple. Temple service will include endowments and baptisms. The temple prefers that we bring our own names for baptisms. Concert dates are indicated below but subject to change.

Objective

Sound Alliance has many purposes, some of which can be grouped into three areas: educational, artistic, and spiritual. Participation helps to raise student levels of musicianship to professional competence and cultivates discipline, intellectualism, communication, and creativity. Sound Alliance provides an opportunity to learn skills necessary for future employment (professional performance, public school teaching, etc.) and a place to apply knowledge gained in other classes. Jazz is one of America’s only truly original art forms and Sound Alliance provides an opportunity for BYU-Idaho students to cultivate the art and to demonstrate its merits. The ensemble often represents BYU-Idaho and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints through on and off campus performances of music that is “virtuous, lovely, of good report [and] praiseworthy.” The Spirit can be felt when practicing a worthy art in a wholesome environment for righteous purposes.

Description

Rehearsals:
MWF 3:15-5:30

Fridays:
3:15-4:15: jazz master class. Attendance is not required but highly recommended.
4:30-5:30: sectionals. Sectionals may be rescheduled if necessary; however, no permanent activity should be scheduled during this block (4:30-5:30).
Fridays may be used for full band rehearsals or other needs such as concert set up.

Performances and Events:
Gene Aitken Rehearsal: January 14, Snow 181, 3:15-5:30 (regular rehearsal place and time)
Dominic Spera Rehearsal/Performance: February 10, Snow 181, 3:15-5:30 (regular rehearsal place and time, rehearsal set-up, no concert sound reinforcement)
Wycliffe Gordon: March 13 dress rehearsal, Kirkham; March 14 concert, Kirkham (set up March 13, 2:00 p.m. or earlier); clinics on Saturday in the Snow
Pre-tour Concert: March 31, Kirkham, 7:30 (set up 2:00 or earlier)
Tour Fireside (required attendance): April 6, Hinckley Chapel, 5:30

*Southern California Tour: April 11-26 ([http://www.byui.edu/performancetours/SA_VU/VUandSA.htm](http://www.byui.edu/performancetours/SA_VU/VUandSA.htm))

- Saturday, April 11 - Sandy, UT
- Monday, April 13 - Logandale, NV
- Tuesday, April 14 - Escondido, CA
- Wednesday, April 15 - Escondido, CA
- Friday, April 17 - Vista, CA
- Saturday, April 18 - San Diego, CA; Dance
- Sunday, April 19 - San Diego, CA; Fireside
- Tuesday, April 21 - Whittier, CA
- Wednesday, April 22 - La Crescenta, CA
- Thursday, April 23 - Riverside, CA
- Friday, April 24 - Las Vegas, NV
Saturday, April 25 - Manti, Utah

*Dates are subject to change. Events such as a visit to Disney Land and to the beach are possible.

Requirements

Sound Alliance is designed to benefit the student, the department, and the university. Its function is educational, artistic, and spiritual. We expect to have a great deal of reward practicing the jazz arts while we learn and grow. In order for this to be accomplished several things must take place. These things are outlined below as requirements.

Attendance:

There are only three reasons to miss a rehearsal: officially excused absence for a university sponsored event, severe illness, and death in your immediate family. If you are unfortunate enough to qualify for one of these reasons, you must talk to Dr. Watkins, leave your folder and supply a substitute that can play your part. Your presence at rehearsal and sectionals benefits you and those around you—we need you here! Each unexcused absence (or lack of a substitute) will result in a half letter grade reduction. There are no reasons for missing a concert (even if you’re dead we expect your spirit to be there).

Fridays:

Sound Alliance registration is MWF from 3:15-5:30. Fridays are used for sectionals (1 hr.), full band rehearsals when needed (before Monday holidays, concerts, guest artist rehearsals, etc.), dress rehearsals when possible, music pass-offs/coaching, rehearsal with Vocal Union, and other needs. If nothing besides sectionals is scheduled, students can reschedule sectionals to facilitate other weekend activities. No permanent responsibility may be booked during the Friday 3:15-5:30 time.

Practice:

Serious practice is requisite and must be in the jazz idiom. Students must be able to play their parts competently a maximum of two weeks after music is distributed.

Non-Majors: This is a 2-credit hour course. 2-credit hour courses require 4-hours out of class time as a university standard. However, 1-hour per day should be considered a minimum for skills acquisition.

Music-Majors: This is a 1-credit hour course. You are required to take private lessons, which are most often in the classical idiom. The department standard is 30-minutes per day for each ensemble. This 30-minutes must be for jazz practice.

Goal Requirement:

Members of Sound Alliance must complete 3 personal improvement goals. Examples can be found on i-Learn. Jazz is a difficult art; success requires much effort. However, students should design their goals according to their personal needs and current situation. Listening and transcription projects are highly recommended.

Listening:

Listening deserves special mention. Jazz is a language and can only be learned through aural example. You cannot expect to play it correctly without hearing it a great deal. We have CDs that you can check out from the library. Listen at every opportunity. Listening must be active; always listen for something (bass line, harmony, rhythm, articulation, instrumentation, groove, etc.)

Other Assignments:

Other assignments may be given such as specific listening of concert repertoire, practice of certain scales, studies in articulation, reference to documents on i-Learn, etc.

Grading

Attendance/Preparation  85%
Projects  15% (each goal not accomplished constitutes ½ letter grade)

Leeway is provided in both categories for grading on attitude and improvement.

Recommendation

All students that are serious about learning the jazz language should enroll in Music 246A and B (Jazz Improvisation 1 and 2), Music 324 (Jazz Combos), and/or Music 101 (Jazz History). Successful completion of the Jazz Improv class fulfills two goals in regards to the Development Projects mentioned above. Jazz Combos counts as one project and should be done in conjunction with regular practice and listening. Jazz History fulfills a humanities general education requirement and fulfills one project goal.
Notices

This syllabus is for the guidance of students only. It does not constitute a contract or agreement of any sort between
the instructor or BYU-Idaho and the student. I reserve the sole and exclusive right to change any and all aspects of
this course at any time for any reason, at my sole discretion. Any and all corrections, alterations, deletions or
additions of any kind will only be announced in class once. I suggest that you attend regularly.

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 instructor any special need she/he may have
before the end of the first week of class.

Students will be expected to adhere to the Code of Honor and dress standards as established by BYU-Idaho. We
remind you that we are all blessed to have the opportunity to be here. We love you and support you-Let's have a
wonderful experience in music and the gospel this year!