

Jazz Band 11 – 12 Course Outline 2023/2024

This mixed-grade course is dedicated to the performance, improvisation and instrumental technical proficiency required to successfully demonstrate a deep understanding and appreciation for jazz music. The student will learn historically significant events, people and places that lead to the inception of jazz as well as the technical elements and terms that define it. In Jazz Band 11 – 12, we focus on the following “big ideas” associated with musical performance and practice:

- *Individual and collective expression is rooted in history, culture, and community.*
- *Growth as a musician requires perseverance, resilience, and reflection.*
- *Music is a process that relies on the interplay of the senses.*
- *Aesthetic experiences have the power to transform the way we think and feel.*
- *Music offers unique ways of exploring our identity and sense of belonging.*

To achieve these goals, rehearsals are fast paced, demanding, and as a result, focused. Jazz band is not a course for the beginner. It is expected that students have a good command of their instrument before registering. In addition, it is imperative that the student play an instrument found in a jazz band: piano, bass, guitar, saxophone, trombone, trumpet, vibraphone or drum set. This course may include guest musicians, masterclasses, and opportunities to attend live jazz performances to enhance the learning experience. Jazz Band is intended to help students develop their musical skills, broaden their knowledge of music, and enjoy the experience of playing in an ensemble.

The core competencies of communication, creative and critical thinking, positive personal and social awareness, responsibility as well as personal and cultural identity are central to the jazz band course. Positive performance outcomes of high level musical repertoire depend upon success in the aforementioned competencies.

Jazz Band will perform regularly over the course of the year and students in the 11-12 levels may also have touring opportunities. Students are expected to attend performances as concerts are part of the course work. Students may also have the opportunity to participate in a jazz festival. Participation in Concert Band is a co-requisite to enrollment in a Jazz Band course.

*****The ability to communicate any possible conflicts with a performance is vital, and it is a large part of the “Personal Responsibility” mark.**

Day to day classes will consist of: warm ups, theoretical concepts or rhythm work, rehearsal of music to be performed. Students are expected to be ready to play every day with their instrument in good working order, and their music ready and prepared.

There is no “text book” for jazz band. We will be selecting material from the jazz library throughout the year. Theory will be taught using a variety of source materials best suited to prepare students for post secondary studies and all technical references will be provided to students who demonstrate a desire to **extend** their knowledge of the concepts presented.

Concepts Presented

Introduction to Jazz:

- History of jazz and its evolution
- Key figures and influential jazz musicians
- Basic jazz terminologies and concepts

Jazz Ensemble Basics:

- Instrument roles within a jazz band
- Ensemble playing and dynamics
- Basic jazz chart reading and interpretation

Rhythmic Fundamentals:

- Swing feel and syncopation
- Rhythmic patterns in jazz music
- Rhythmic improvisation exercises

Melodic Concepts:

- Major and minor scales in jazz
- Pentatonic and blues scales
- Developing melodic phrases and motifs

Harmony and Chord Progressions:

- Understanding jazz chord symbols
- Basic chord voicings for each instrument
- Harmonic analysis of jazz standards

Jazz Improvisation:

- Introduction to jazz improvisation
- Approaches to soloing over chord progressions
- Soloing exercises and techniques

Jazz Standards and Repertoire:

- Learning and performing classic jazz standards
- Exploring various jazz styles (e.g., swing, bebop, cool jazz)
- Emphasizing historical context and style characteristics

Jazz Arranging and Composition:

- Basics of jazz arranging
- Writing parts for different instruments
- Introduction to jazz composition

Career Opportunities in Music:

- Learning about career opportunities in music as a performer, technician, manager, agent, engineer, teacher, and composer.

Jazz Band Rehearsals and Performance:

- Rehearsing as a jazz band ensemble
- Preparing for performances and concerts
- Emphasizing teamwork and communication

Jazz Appreciation:

- Listening to iconic jazz recordings
- Analyzing and discussing jazz performances
- Understanding jazz's impact on contemporary music

Self-Evaluation and Critique:

- Encouraging self-assessment and constructive criticism among students to foster continuous improvement.

Assessment

The semester is split into two terms, with each contributing equally to the final mark:

Term I (50%)

Term II (50%)

Each term your mark is divided as follows:

Term I

Rehearsal Etiquette, Effort and Personal Responsibility:	25%
Performances and Playing Evaluations:	25%

Term II

Rehearsal Etiquette, Effort and Personal Responsibility:	25%
Performances and Playing Evaluations:	25%

Classroom Policies and Rehearsal Procedures

Detailed Classroom Policies and Rehearsal Procedures can be found in the Argyle Music Handbook here: <https://www.argylemusic.ca/>

*****Note: although some of the dates and names listed in the handbook may not be up to date, key policies and procedures referring to attendance, preparation, materials, cell phone use, as well as performance and rehearsal etiquette remain the same. It is essential that students familiarize themselves with the guidelines set out in the handbook.**

