

Jazz Combo
530:016, section 6
Spring 2011
Christopher Merz

Course Description

This is a performance-oriented course dealing with all aspects of small group jazz performance. Students will have several on- and off-campus performance opportunities throughout the semester. By the end of the semester, the successful student will:

1. be part of a cohesive group with the aim of developing a distinct musical personality.
2. have **memorized** and performed several tunes from jazz and/or popular repertoire.
3. have become a stronger improviser within the small group context.

Structure

Students will have the opportunity to set up their own groups for performance in the class (these combos must provide me a **complete** roster by Monday, Aug 23). Those who do not create their own groups will be assigned to a group based on instrumental needs and ability/experience. Most combos will be assigned a coach, but more advanced groups may not. Groups not assigned a coach are encouraged to seek coaching periodically through the semester. Groups will rehearse **twice a week**. Groups with assigned coaches will meet once a week with their coach and once without. Times should be solidified as soon as possible to facilitate room reservation. It is up to each ensemble to make certain these rehearsals are happening and productive.

Coach's role

The role of the coach includes, but is not limited to:

1. providing group and individual guidance in the development of a personal style.
2. assistance with repertoire, including selection and arrangement of material.
3. critique all aspects of group performance in both rehearsals and performances.
4. serve as liaison with Professor Merz regarding performance dates and general progress of the group.
5. grading each member's work for the semester (where applicable), and reporting grades to Prof. Merz
6. Reporting to me names and student ID numbers of students needing participation credit for the **class (music majors who are already registered for 2 ensembles—all others must register for credit)**. This must happen by the end of the second week of classes

The role of the coach **does not** include:

1. moving equipment.
2. organizing rehearsals (contacting members, etc.).

Performances

Monday, February 28	Combos in Bengtson Auditorium (all groups, 15 min. MAX), 7:30 PM
Wednesday, March 30	Combos at The HuB (as assigned), 9:30 PM
Wednesday, April 13	Combos at The HuB (as assigned), 9:30 PM

Combo leaders or coaches should inform me of any conflicts with the performance schedule immediately.

In addition to the HuB and Russell Hall performances, each combo is required to organize, advertise (posting), and play one additional performance. Groups may share a performance and organization responsibilities. The following venues are open to performances by UNI combos:

Spicoli's (Cody, thereverbbooking@aol.com); The HuB (Marcus, marcus@thehublivemusic.com); the Lampost, 277-8034.

Other opportunities and venues may become available throughout the semester. I will use mailserv (see below) to get the word out about these, as they appear.

Grading (where applicable)

Grades will be based on participation. All combo members are expected to attend all rehearsals and share responsibilities for coming up with repertoire, moving equipment, etc. The "additional performance" is also a requirement. If this does not happen, a significant grade reduction will result.

Students who are taking this class for participation credit only (music majors with more than 2 ensembles) should inform their coach, who will in turn inform me via e-mail (full name and student ID number) by the **second week of classes**, so that I can submit a list to Emily.

Graduate Credit

Students enrolled in this course for graduate credit will typically act as player/coaches, fulfilling requirements for both roles as outlined above. Grading for these students, as well as the undergraduates in combos led by graduate students, is the responsibility of Professor Merz.

Attendance

Attendance at all rehearsals is expected (INCLUDING UNCOACHED SESSIONS). Unexcused absences from rehearsals will result in a lowered grade. Habitual absence may result in the absentee being dropped from the group. Attendance at all performances is mandatory. Students who miss performances will be dropped from the group.

All participants, whether registered for numerical credit or participation only, are expected to attend performances by all combos. We must support each other if we expect others to support us.

Mailserv

I will establish a mailserv distribution list for this class. This distribution list will be used to keep you all informed about upcoming events and changes of schedule in the combo program. All students who are currently enrolled in 530:016:06 will be placed on the list automatically, using their UNI e-mail accounts. Students who are not enrolled for credit, or who are enrolled under the 530:016:06 number, will need to add their e-mail addresses to the list. This can be done by sending an e-mail to mailserv@uni.edu where the body of the message contains these two lines:

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SUB 530-116-06-SPRING  
END
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Note that dashes are used rather than colons for the course number in the message.

Room Reservations for Rehearsals and Sectionals

If you want to view the calendars/schedules for Davis Hall, Jebe Hall, or Bengtson Auditorium (or any other room EXCEPT the Great Hall, which is inaccessible for our purposes), you may now do so online using Corporate Time (Oracle Calendar). To access Corporate Time, use the web version:

www.uni.edu/calendar. Your username will be "Music Calendar" and your password will be "Student."

There is a row of ten icons beneath the calendar in the upper left hand corner.

- 1) Click on the far right or 10th icon (view agendas).
- 2) In "view agendas" select "Resources" from the drop down menu (instead of "People" or "Event calendars" search).
- 3) Fill in PAC or RSL in the "Search" box (whichever building you would like to view).

4) Click on "Find." There are your calendars.

5) In the row of icons, click the third one from the left for a monthly view. That shows everything for each day.

6) Once you find a suitable venue and time for your rehearsal, please e-mail me with details and I will make the booking. Be aware that at the beginning of the semester there is a flurry of bookings, so get me your choices quickly. Try to include an alternate choice if possible.

Notes

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) provides protection from the illegal discrimination for qualified individuals with disabilities. Students requesting instructional accommodations due to disabilities must arrange for such accommodation through the Office of Disability Services. The ODS is located at 103 Student Health Center. The phone is: 273-2676 (voice) 273-3011 (TTY); Email: disability_services@uni.edu.

Disruptive behaviors in the classroom will not be tolerated. Students may be reported to the Director of the School of Music, Dean of Students or UNI Police for possible disciplinary action(s).

Cell phones should be set to the silent mode or vibration mode while in class.

I encourage you to utilize the Academic Learning Center's free assistance with writing, math, science, reading, and learning strategies. UNI's Academic Learning Center is located in 008 ITTC. Visit the website at <http://www.uni.edu/unialc/> or phone 319-273-2361 for more information.