Syllabus: Beginning Jazz Improvisation  
Section 1/Fall-2009/RSL-101  
Instructor: Dr. Washut  
Phone: 273-6431/Office hours: T/Th: 11:00; W: 1:00 (RSL-189)

Texts/Materials:  
1) Washut, *Syllabus for Beginning Jazz Improvisation* (@ Copyworks)  
2) Aural transcription CD (student provides a blank CD)

Objectives:  
1) To develop basic skills and concepts related to improvising in the jazz idiom  
2) To acquire a basic repertoire of jazz tunes (emphasis on blues heads)  
3) To learn how to listen effectively to recorded jazz performances

Test Dates and other due dates:  
1) Listening report  
2) Playing quizzes  
3) Unit #1 playing exam  
4) Unit #2 playing exam  
5) Transcribed solo due  
6) Aural transcription assignments (blues heads) as announced

Objectives:  
1) Basic jazz harmony: chord construction and notation, chord-scales, guide tones and harmonic lines  
2) Developing a "time-feel" concept; using the metronome  
3) Ear-training activities (see activities listed at the end of each chapter of the text):  
   a) developing a concept of jazz phrasing and articulation  
   b) developing the ability to play by ear (including transcriptions of various heads)  
   c) developing musical memory (call & response "dictation" activities)  
   d) developing the ability to transcribe recorded solos  
4) Scale/pattern studies:  
   a) minor pentatonic, blues--major and minor, major, dorian, and mixolydian/bebop  
   b) basic digital patterns  
   c) harmonic outlines  
5) Learning/memorizing tunes:  
   a) transposition to other keys  
   b) playing changes @ keyboard  
   c) playing bass lines  
6) Listening concepts

Tune types to be studied:  
1) Blues tunes (various "heads" in keys of F, Bb, and Eb): horizontal and vertical approaches  
2) Bird Blues--progression and head(s): II-V and II-V-I in major and minor

Grading: The course grade will be a composite of "pop" playing quizzes (20%), listening report (5%), unit #1 playing exam (25%), unit #2 playing exam (25%) and solo transcription project (25%). (Note: Graduate credit requires 2 transcriptions or extra project approved by the instructor.)

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