

Mesa College

Concert Jazz Band Syllabus

James Romeo, Director and Chair of Music

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Overview

Students will perform a variety of styles of jazz ranging from ragtime to big band to contemporary. They will learn how to improvise and perform as soloists within the group. The history and basic structure of jazz will also be studied and discussed. In addition, students will be introduced to a variety of composers, styles and terminology and will be expected to have a working familiarity with everything we cover. The jazz band will perform at school functions, concerts and around the community.

Classroom Rules

- 1) Respect others, respect yourself, and respect the music.
- 2) Work hard and demonstrate a positive attitude.
- 3) Be prepared. Have your part learned!
- 4) Maintain your equipment meticulously.
- 5) Clean up after yourself.

Objectives:

1. Strengthen musicianship through rehearsal and performance of individual parts.
2. Develop professional rehearsal and performance skills.
3. Internalize a solid sense of time displacement and rhythm
4. Gain exposure to improvisation.
5. Hone listening skills of self, others nearby, lead parts, and the ensemble as a whole.
6. Master musical and technical components of music.

7. Develop knowledge of jazz history and key jazz musicians.
8. Listen to important and related recordings of music being rehearsed.

Class procedure:

1. Individual preparation is essential.
2. Regularly scheduled rehearsals and performances.
3. Sectionals.
4. Non-scheduled rehearsals and performances.

Typical presentations:

1. Steady time displacement, swing, and groove.
2. Rhythm.
3. Tone production.
4. Articulation.
5. Accents.
6. Dynamics.
7. Section and ensemble balance.
8. Different idiomatic styles of jazz.
9. Improvisation.
10. Interaction between players.

Materials

- 1) Instrument (or sticks & mallets)
- 2) At least 2 pencils (no pens, please)
- 3) All of your music
- 4) Extra reeds (woodwinds only, naturally)
- 5) Valve oil (brass only)
- 6) Extra patch cords, strings, and any other necessary accessories.

Concert and Performance Dress Code

Dress up! Suits are the most appropriate concert attire.

Grades

Grades will be earned according to effort, preparedness, participation and progress.

*** ***All performances are mandatory.*** Exceptions will only be made in case of emergency. Forgetting to get time off work or to find a ride are not emergencies. Serious illness, accident, death etc. are examples of acceptable excuses. If one of these should occur, please let me know as soon as possible! Call my cell: 858-922-2302.

Finally, I will keep you up to date as best I can regarding any changes there may be throughout the year. If you have any questions regarding class, performances or anything else, please let me know as soon as possible.

Welcome to Jazz Band!

James Romeo