Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL BASS

General Information:

• The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.

• Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student’s degree program.

• These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.

• Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.

Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson
Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned composition and demonstrate improvement with sight reading.

Freshman Level

➢ One Octave Scales at 120BPM
➢ Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale
➢ One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM
➢ Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7
➢ Jazz Songs as assigned
➢ Transposition: Play Blues in Bb, F, Eb and C
➢ Transcription: One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 bars
Sophomore Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120BPM, Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian
- Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
- Transcription: One solo of at least 16 Bars

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor
- Standards as assigned
- Transcription: One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars
- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120BPM Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone
- Standards as assigned
- Transcription: One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned compositions, transcribe at least one solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight reading

Freshman Level

- One Octave Scales at 120 BPM
- Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale, Chromatic Scale (Open E for 1 1/2 Octaves) Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian
- One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM, Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7, Half Diminished 7, Diminished 7
- Jazz Songs as assigned
- Transposition: Play Blues in all 12 Keys at 120BPM
- Transcription: One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 Bars

**Sophomore Level**
- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, Chromatic Scale (Open E for 2 ½ octaves), Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone
- Three Octave chromatic scale
- Two Octave Arpeggios at 120BMP, Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7
- Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: Play Rhythm Changes in all 12 Keys 120BPM
- Transcription: One Solo of at least 32 Bars

**Upper Division Jury** (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)
- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years.

**Junior Level**
- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on 4th mode
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: It Could Happen to You in all 12 keys 120 BPM, Have You Met Mrs. Jones in all 12 keys 120 BPM
- Transcription: One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars
- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

**Senior Level**
- Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM, Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing 5th mode
- Standards Pick 3
- Transposition: All the Things You Are in all 12 Keys 120BPM
➢ Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
➢ Standards as assigned
➢ Senior Recital *(required based upon degree program)*