Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL SAXOPHONE

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

Freshman Level
- Overtones
- Top Tones for the Saxophone (Rascher)
- Daily Studies for all Saxophones (Kynaston)
- Major Scales
- Harmonic Minor Scales
- Melodic Minor Scales
- Chromatic Scales, from any pitch
- Blues scales

Chords and Scales: Ionian w/ Δ7, Mixolydian w/ V7
- Major scales modes
1-2-bar Blues

**Prepared etudes as assigned:** *Jazz Conception – Book I (Snidero), 18 Studies after Berbiguier (Mule), 48 Etudes (Ferling/Mule)*

**Sophomore Level**
- *The Intonation Workbook* (Kynaston)
- *158 Saxophone Exercises* (Rascher)
- *Inside Improvisation, Vol. 1* (Bergonzi)
- Major scale intervals
- Major pentatonic scales
- Whole tone scales

**Chords and Scales:** Dorian w/ min. 7, Locrian w/ ø7
- Bird Blues
- Rhythm changes
- Transcription as assigned
- **Etudes as assigned:** *Jazz Etudes – Book I (Fishman), Selected Studies (Voxman), 18 Studies after Berbiguier* (Mule), *Etude Variees* (Campagnoli), *Neuf Etudes Transcendantes* (Samyn)

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

**Junior Level**
- *Exercises Mecaniques Vol. 1* (Londiex)
- *Inside Improvisation, Vol. 2* (Bergonzi)
- Melodic minor scale intervals
- Harmonic minor scale intervals
- Lydian-Dominant scales
- H-W Diminished scales

**Chords and Scales:** Lydian-Dominant w/ V7+11, Melodic Minor w/ min. Δ7
- Substitute chord progressions on the Blues
- Bebop Approach Tones
- Modal tunes
Transcription as assigned

Etudes as assigned: Jazz Conception – Book 2 (Snidero), 15 Etudes (Bach/Callieret), Etude Variees (Campagnoli), 24 Easy Atonal Etudes (Lacour), 28 Etudes-modes de Messiaen (Lacour), Exercises Mecaniques Vol. 1 (Londiex)

Junior Recital (required based upon degree program)

Senior Level

- Inside Improvisation, Vol. 3 & 4 (Bergonzi)
- Saxopone High Tones (Rousseau)
- Minor pentatonic scales
- Altered scales
- Augmented scales
- Lydian-Augmented scales

Chords and Scales: Locrian#2 w/ Δ7+2, Altered w/ V7b5b9 & V7+5+9

- Giant Steps chord progressions
- Transcription as assigned

Etudes as assigned: Jazz Conception – Book 3 (Snidero), Paradigms I (Caravan), 15 Concert Etudes (Koechlin), 22 Dodecaprices (Lacour), Exercises Mecaniques Vol. 2 (Londiex)

Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Overtones
- Top Tones for the Saxophone (Rascher)
- 158 Saxophone Exercises (Rascher)
- The Intonation Workbook (Kynaston)
- Daily Studies (Teal)
- Daily Studies for all Saxophones (Kynaston)
- Major scales and intervals
- Harmonic Minor scales and intervals
- Melodic Minor scales and intervals
- Chromatic, from any pitch
- Blues scales and its possible applications
- Major pentatonic scales
- Whole tone scales

**Chords and Scales:** Ionian w/ Δ7, Mixolydian w/ V7, Dorian w/ min. 7, Locrian w/ min. 7, Locrian w/ ø7

- Diatonic 7th chords
- Major scale modes
- 12-bar Blues
- Bird Blues
- Transcription as assigned

**Etudes as assigned:** *Jazz Conception – Book 1* (Snidero), *Jazz Etudes – Book 1* (Fishman), 18 Studies after Berbiguier (Mule), 48 Etudes (Ferling/Mule), 15 Etudes (Bach/Caillieret), 24 Caprices-études – for Flute (Boehm), 24 Easy Atonal Etudes (Lacour), Selected Studies (Voxman), Neuf Etudes Transcendantes (Samyn)

**Woodwind doubling:** Flute basics

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**Sophomore Level**

- *Inside Improvisation, Vol. 1 & 2* (Bergonzi)
- Major scales and extended intervals
- Harmonic minor scales and extended intervals
- Melodic minor scales and extended intervals
- Minor pentatonic scales
- H-W Diminished scales

**Chords and Scales:** Lydian w/ Δ7+11, Melodic Minor w/ min. Δ7, Locrian #2 w/ ø7+2, Lydian Dominant w/ v7+4

- Substitute chord progressions on the Blues
- Bebop Approach Tones
Rhythm changes

Transcription as assigned


**Woodwind Doubling:** Clarinet basics, flute/clarinet techniques and duets

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

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years.

**Junior Level**

- *Saxophone High Tones* (Rousseau)
- *Inside Improvisation, Vol. 3 & 4* (Bergonzi)
- Augmented scales
- Melodic minor scale modes, focusing on Lydian–Augmented (3rd Melodic Minor mode)

**Chords and Scales:** Altered w/ v7b5b9 & v7+5.9, Lydian-Augmented w/ ∆7+5+11

- Non-functional chord progressions
- Patterns from *Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns* (Slonimsky)
- Giant Steps chord progressions
- Transcription as assigned


**Woodwind doubling:** Flute/clarinet etudes and duets

- Junior recital (required based upon degree program)

**Senior Level**

- *Inside Improvisation, Vol. 6* (Bergonzi)
- *Twelve=Tone Improvisation: A Method for Using Tone Rows in Jazz* (O’Gallagher)
- Harmonic minor scales modes, focusing on Phrygian-Dominant (5th Harmonic Minor mode)
**Chords and scales:** Phrygian Dominant w V7♭9 Diminished Harmony

- Compositions of Wayne Shorter
- Transcription as assigned

**Etudes as assigned:** *Jazz Conceptions – Book* (Snidero)

**Woodwind Doubling:** Flute/clarinet repertoire, show excerpts; bass clarinet and piccolo basics

- Senior Recital *(required based upon degree program)*