Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL TROMBONE

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

➢ Major scales – 2 octaves where possible
➢ Chromatic scale from any pitch – 2 octaves where possible
➢ Improvising on the blues progression
➢ Prepared etudes as assigned

Sophomore Level

➢ Modes of the major scale – 2 octaves where possible
➢ Major/Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves where possible
➢ Melodic Minor scale – ascending form only
- Harmonic Minor scale
- Whole Tone scale
- Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression
- Prepared etudes as assigned

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

**Junior Level**
- Modes of Melodic minor scale
- Modes of Harmonic minor scale
- Major ii-V-I progression
- Minor ii-V-I progression
- Prepared etudes as assigned
- Junior Recital (required based upon degree program)

**Senior Level**
- Advanced scale studies (symmetrical, altered, etc.)
- 4 note structures and arpeggios
- Expanded scale practice
- Prepared etudes as assigned
- Senior Recital (required based upon degree program)

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**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**
- Major scales – 2 octaves where possible
- Chromatic scale from any pitch – 2 octaves where possible
- Blues scale and its possible applications
- Cycle of 5ths and 1, 2, 3, 5 (etc.) patterns
- Modes of the major scale – w octaves where possible
- Common 7th chords and arpeggios
- Cycle of 5ths
- Improvising on the blues progression
- Prepared etudes as assigned

**Sophomore Level**
- Melodic Minor scale – ascending form only
- Harmonic Minor scale
- Major/Minor Pentatonic scales – 2 octaves where possible
- H/W diminished scale
- Whole Tone scale
- Improvising on Rhythm Changes progression
- Prepared etudes as assigned

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

**Junior Level**
- Modes of Melodic minor scale
- Modes of Harmonic minor scale
- Major ii-V-I progression
- Minor ii-V-I progression
- Giant Steps sequence
- Prepared etudes as assigned
- Junior recital *(required based upon degree program)*
Senior Level

- Advanced scale studies (symmetrical, altered, etc.)
- 4 note structures and arpeggios
- Expanded scale practice
- 5 note structures and arpeggios
- Prepared etudes as assigned
- Senior Recital *(required based upon degree program)*