

Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL VOICE

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.
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Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson

- Writing assignment required for notebook. Entries for each song studied will include the following: title, composer, preferred key, tempo marking and style, and pertinent information about the tune and composer/lyricist
- Updated tune list for gig book. List includes memorized songs and will be organized in ABC order by title. List will also include the composer, preferred key, and style (swing, ballad, Latin, pop., etc.)
- Lead sheets for each tune in singer's preferred key

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Writing assignment required for notebook. Entries for each song studied will include the following: title, composer, preferred key, tempo marking and style, and pertinent information about the tune and composer/lyricist

➤ Updated tune list for gig book. List includes memorized songs and will be organized in ABC order by title. List will include the composer, preferred key, and style (swing, ballad, Latin, pop, etc.)

➤ Lead sheets for each tune in singer's preferred key

Freshman Level

➤ Major scales

➤ Minor scales – natural and harmonic minor

➤ Minor scales – melodic minor

➤ Pentatonic scales – major and minor

➤ Blues scale

➤ Ten (10) memorized jazz standards: chosen by teacher each semester and will include at least 2 swing tunes, 1 Latin tune, 1 ballad, and one in $\frac{3}{4}$ or $\frac{6}{8}$

➤ Piano – be able to play three (3) tunes on the piano, melody only

Sophomore Level

➤ All modes of the major scale

➤ $\frac{1}{2}$ - whole diminished scales – starting on any pitch

➤ Chromatic scale

➤ Whole tone scale

➤ Ten (10) memorized jazz standards: chosen by teacher

➤ A Blues tune

➤ A Rhythm changes tune

➤ Improvisation/scat singing on three (3) tunes

➤ Piano – be able to play three (3) tunes on the piano, melody in RH and bass note in LH

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

➤ Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Twelve (12) memorized jazz standards: chosen by teach each semester
- Improvisation/scat singing on five (5) tunes
- Transcribe a Sarah Vaughn or Ella Fitzgerald solo
- Piano – be able to sing two (2) songs while playing the root in the LH on piano. Be able to sing one (1 song on the piano with chords in the RH and root in the LH
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Senior Level

- Seventeen (17) memorized jazz standards: chosen by teach each semester
- Improvisation/scat singing on four (4) tunes
- Four (4) transcriptions of your choice
- Piano – be able to sing three (3) songs while singing and accompanying oneself with changes
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)