

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre

MPPM 420

Course Hours: Mondays

The Red Studio: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Office Hours: 10:00 - 11:00 p.m.

Mondays & Wednesdays **(By Appointment Only)**

Teaching Philosophy: I believe that it's possible for music to be nurtured by incorporating all three dimensions (Physical, Mental and Spiritual) into the students musical education. By exploring these possibilities with the students we can help them to discover and achieve their maximum potential.

Course Expectations: All students are expected to be on time and present at every rehearsal. Each student must make measurable progress on assigned literature and be prepared at each rehearsal. There will only be one unexcused absence allowed without a written note from your doctor.

Books and Materials: Every student will be required to learn original fusion compositions, arranged for the ensemble that meets the criteria of the Course Expectations. All arrangements must have parts that are transposed properly and must be legible. All students will be required to bring a portable hard drive to download the assigned compositions.

Grades: Grades will be determined by attendance, participation, progress on written assignments, scheduled performances and promotional and program work.

Jury Grade	25%
Semester Performance	25%
Written Assignments	25%
Participation	15%
Attendance	10%

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre

MPPM 420 - Fusion Ensemble

Course Hours: Mondays
The Red Studio: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Objectives and Criteria:

Making Changes and Improvisation:

Familiarity with common chord progressions (ex: II V I) and sophisticated diatonic scale utilizations on Dominant nomenclatures resolving to tonic roots (ex: Lydian Dominant; Whole tone; Altered Dominant: b9, #9, #11, b13; Diminished Dominant: b9, #9, #11, 13).

Developing solos, shape, contour, climaxes, tension/release techniques, etc.
Playing correct scale to chord relationships, scale/chord options
Rhythm and syncopation's.

Compositions:

Learning to groove in different idioms (ex: Bossa Nova, Samba, R&B, Jazz, Rock, etc) Learning the basic standard song forms.
Quick and simple arrangements of standard tunes within each idiom.

Transcriptions:

Learning vocabulary, ear training and learning to hear progressions and common motion. Learning compositions from definitive recordings.

Reading:

Improving sight reading via standard tunes and other common jazz rhythms, and learning the basic rhythms in different idioms.

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre

MPPM 420 - Fusion Ensemble

Course Hours: Mondays
The Red Studio: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Objectives and Criteria:

Group Sound:

Playing in a group
Each players responsibility developing a group sound
Strengths and Weaknesses
Performance Standards (i.e.: look, presentation, etc)
Programming a concert
Professionalism
Speaking at a gig

Rules and Regulations: If any unexcused absence occurs, a failing grade will result. If an excused absence is approved, a suitable competent substitute of equal or greater experience will be required to be at the rehearsal. All assignments and transcriptions must be completed by the due dates. If two or more assignments are not completed in any given semester then a failing grade will result. **THERE WILL BE NO EXCEPTIONS MADE TO THIS POLICY !!**

Disability: Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Student Affairs each semester. In order to establish disability the student must submit recent documentation explaining the nature of the disability and how it affects them at the college level as well as suggested accommodations. After the documentation is reviewed the dean of students will contact the student for an appointment. The telephone number is (213) 740-0776.

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre
MPPM 420 - Fusion Ensemble

Course Hours: Mondays
The Red Studio: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Compositions in Chronological Order:

The 1950's

Horace Silver - "The Preacher" (1955)
Horace Silver - "Sister Sadie" (1959)
Cannonball Adderley Quintet - "This Here" (1959)
Antonio Carlos Jobim - "Chega de Saudade" (1959)

The 1960's

Bobby Timmons - "Dat Dere" (1960)
Herbie Hancock - "Watermelon Man" (1962)
Lee Morgan - "Sidewinder" (1964)
Herbie Hancock - "Cantaloupe Island" (1964)
Josef Zawinul - "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy" (1966)
Gary Burton - "Duster LP" (1967)
Eddie Harris - "Listen Here" (1967)
Josef Zawinul - "In A Silent Way" (1969)
Eddie Harris/Les McCann - "Compared To What" (1969)
Josef Zawinul - "Walk Tall" (1969)
Josef Zawinul - "Country Preacher" (1969)

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre
MPPM 420 - Fusion Ensemble

Compositions in Chronological Order:

The 1970's

Miles Davis - "Bitches Brew" (1970)
The Mahavishnu Orchestra - "Inner Mounting Flame" (1971)
John McLaughlin - "Dawn" (1971)
The Jazz Crusaders - "Put It Where You Want It" (1972)
Josef Zawinul - "Dr. Honorius Causa" (1972)
Chick Corea & Neville Potter - "Light As A Feather" (1972)
Chick Corea - "Spain" (1972)
John McLaughlin - "Birds of Fire" (1973)
Herbie Hancock - "Sly" (1973)
Alphonso Johnson - "Cucumber Slumber" (1974)
Josef Zawinul and Miroslav Vitous - "American Tango" (1974)
Herbie Hancock - "Actual Proof" (1974)
Keith Jarrett - "Long As You Know You're Living Yours" (1974)
Jan Hammer - "Oh Yeah" (1975)
The Grateful Dead - "Blues For Allah" (1975)
Wayne Shorter - "Elegant People" (1976)
Michael Brecker - "Night Flight" (1976)
Chick Corea - "Armando's Rhumba" (1976)
Josef Zawinul - "Black Market" (1976)
Wayne Shorter - "Palladium" (1977)
Jaco Pastorius - "Teen Town" (1977)
Josef Zawinul - "A Remark You Made" (1977)
Josef Zawinul - "Birdland" (1977)
Josef Zawinul - "Young and Fine" (1978)
Brecker Brothers - "Some Skunk Funk" (1978)
Gonzalo Rubalcaba - "Giraldilla" (1990)

Alphonso Johnson
(310) 993-1524 – Telephone
alphonsj@usc.edu

Popular Music Styles and Genre
MPPM 420 - Fusion Ensemble

Compositions in Chronological Order:

The 1980's

Joe Henderson - "No Me Esqueca"
Don Grolnick - "Pools" (1982)
Pat Metheny - "Farmer's Trust" (1983)
Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays - "Straight On Red" (1983)
Pat Metheny/Lyle Mays - "First Circle" (1984)
Wayne Shorter - "Endangered Species" (1985)
Wayne Shorter - "Face On A Barroom Floor" (1985)
The Yellowjackets - "Timeline"
Wayne Shorter - "The Three Marias" (1985)
Pat Metheny - "Last Train Home" (1987)
Pat Metheny - "Letter From Home" (1989)

The 1990's

Simon Phillips - "Cosmos" (1992)
Wayne Shorter - "Children of The Night" (1995)
Wayne Shorter - "Pandora Awakened" (1995)
Chick Corea - "Beyond The Seventh Galaxy" (1996)
Jazz Is Dead - "Blues For Allah' Medley (1998)
Jazz Is Dead - "Crazy Fingers" (1998)
Jazz Is Dead - "Row Jimmy Row" (1999)