

MUJZ 450x Beginning Jazz Improvisation

Professor Thomas

Office Hours:

1:00PM-1:50PM Mondays and Wednesdays, on Zoom. Email to make an appointment.

E-mail: johnthom@usc.edu

Course Description:

Development of intermediate improvisational skills including underlying principles of theory, harmony, jazz ear training, and jazz style.

Learning Objectives:

1. Compose jazz melodies
2. Harmonic analysis of jazz improvisations
3. Perform with jazz phrasing and articulation
4. Transcribe jazz improvisations

Course Expectations:

Students are expected to practice and or transcribe one hour a day. The students are expected to come to class prepared to perform the assignments at the play-along recorded tempo. No make-up performance tests or written exams will be given unless for a medical or family emergency.

Course Design:

Because of the nature of the class and different strengths of student abilities, the course syllabus could change during the semester.

Statement from Professor Thomas:

No one likes having to teach or take a class online during these uncertain times and we are all frustrated and overwhelmed with the situation of this Pandemic. If you become frustrated, have a problem or an upset, please contact me right away.

Try to be respectful to one another and to myself and to Landon. I have worked tirelessly over the past weeks, making this online class fun and enjoyable and I want everyone to have a wonderful experience and to appreciate the music we love.

Grading Structure:

Weekly Transcriptions – 50%

Weekly Improvisations – 50%

Grading Rubric:

I realize that everyone in the class comes with a different background, talent and experience. Everyone will do well if:

1. You make progress
2. You do all the assignments
3. You show up!
4. You try your best

Class Format:

On Monday's, we will perform our transcriptions. If performing a blues, it will be one chorus (12 bars). If a 32 bar song form, the first 16 bars. This will be played from memory along with the recording and written-out to be analyzed and shared with the class.

On Wednesday's, we will improvise. Although, your improvisation will be previously recorded and written-out to be shared with the class. Improvisation is composing in the moment. Did you realize that all music is improvised and when written down, it's called a composition.

Recording Online Classes:

All classes will be automatically recorded and will be available to the students in Blackboard. Students are not allowed to create their own class recordings without the instructor's permission. Information on recording and sharing Zoom recordings, and on Zoom settings, is available on the CET website:
<http://cet.usc.edu/online-teaching/>.

Camera Policy:

Acknowledging that class dynamics are substantially compromised without the ability to see the people in class, faculty can set an expectation that students have their **cameras on during synchronous online sessions**. However, some students may be facing challenging situations, such as internet connectivity, illness, or home environments that make this difficult or impossible. To alleviate these concerns, faculty can encourage students to use virtual backgrounds, which will eliminate most privacy concerns, and earphones or headsets to improve audio quality. While faculty are at liberty to create a "camera-on" policy in their class, they should communicate that accommodations are available to students who contact them directly with reasonable requests.

Time Zone Accommodation:

The class meets from 11:00AM-11:50AM Pacific Time. In general, students should plan to attend every synchronous session for the classes in which they are enrolled, irrespective of when it occurs in their time zone. However, if the class meets outside of 7:00AM to 10:00PM in your local time we might need to make arrangements for synchronous activities.

Synchronous session recording notice

As required by USC, the synchronous sessions for this course will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously. This policy does not apply to individual lessons.

Sharing of course materials outside of the learning environment

USC has a policy that prohibits sharing of any synchronous and asynchronous course content outside of the learning environment. Please do not share or otherwise distribute class materials, music scores or recordings produced by me or any students in the conduct of this course without expressed permission.

SCampus Section 11.12(B)

Distribution or use of notes or recordings based on university classes or lectures without the express permission of the instructor for purposes other than individual or group study is a violation of the USC Student Conduct Code. This includes, but is not limited to, providing materials for distribution by services publishing class notes. This restriction on unauthorized use also applies to all information, which had been distributed to students or in any way had been displayed for use in relationship to the class, whether obtained in class, via email, on the Internet or via any other media. (See Section C.1 Class Notes Policy).

Zoom etiquette

I expect you to demonstrate your presence and participation in class by your being on camera in all Zoom sessions. If you will be unable to keep your camera on during the synchronous Zoom sessions, please contact me prior to the class sessions to discuss.

<http://cet.usc.edu/cet/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Netiquette-Considerations.docx>

USC technology rental program

We realize that attending classes online and completing coursework remotely requires access to technology that not all students possess. If you need resources to successfully participate in your classes, such as a laptop or internet hotspot, you may be eligible for the university's equipment rental program or other assistance. To apply, please [submit an application](#) on the Student Basic Needs portal.

USC Technology Support Links

<https://keep-teaching.usc.edu/students/student=toolkit/>

Academic Conduct

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report

Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu

