

MUJZ 141a - Keyboard for Improvisers Fall 2020 - Course Syllabus
Class meets Friday, 12:00 - 1:50 PM, via Zoom
Instructor: David Arnay arnay@usc.edu office: 213-740-3119 (Jullanar)

Overview:

MUJZ 141's emphasis is on accompaniment techniques in the jazz idiom, using the piano keyboard as a tool for understanding harmony, learning tunes, sitting in as pianist, and developing your writing. The class covers fundamental piano technique including scales and arpeggios, chord structures, common jazz/blues progressions and styles, performance of melodies with simple accompaniment, and the creation of bass lines. After the midterm we explore more complex chord voicings and accompaniment techniques, additional jazz styles, and further your skills for sightreading lead sheets.

Required materials (online format):

1. Access to a piano or keyboard in your home. Ideally, the instrument will have 88 keys, weighted action, and a sustain pedal. The only sound required is that of an acoustic piano.

2. Internet protocols and settings. Use of a laptop or desktop computer is highly recommended; even the largest smart phone screen is not suitable, and does not offer access to preferred Zoom audio settings. To maximize bandwidth, please request that others in your living space avoid any data-heavy internet activity during our class Zoom meetings. Situate your instrument in a quiet space that provides a clear camera view of yourself and the keyboard. Please apply these "advanced" Zoom audio settings:

- a. enable "original sound" feature b. disable noise suppression filters**

As required by USC, the synchronous sessions for this course will be recorded and provided to all students asynchronously.

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 session, please contact me prior to the class session to discuss.

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.

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.

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Software available to USC students: <https://software.usc.edu>

Blackboard help: <https://studentblackboardhelp.usc.edu>

Zoom help: <https://itservices.usc.edu/zoom/>

3. Backing tracks. Some assignments will involve play-along tracks; you'll need a means to play audio in the room with your instrument. A BlueTooth speaker with good bass response is one easy way to make this happen.

Communication:

Monitor and maintain your USC email account! All class-related messages will be via email, and please use email to contact me. Please clear out your inbox regularly, and respond promptly when a reply is requested.

Process:

By Wednesday each week I will post in Blackboard an instructional video introducing new concepts and the associated assignment. At the start of each Friday class session I'll briefly review the lecture content and answer any questions you may have. The remaining class time will consist of individual consultations wherein you'll demonstrate your progress with the previous week's assignment. These individual meetings will run 5-10 minutes after which you may sign off from the meeting. Your progress will be recorded on a checklist. **Weekly participation and associated evaluations account for 50% of your grade.** There will be some written assignments; you must be prepared to play what you write. This is a two-unit performance-related class; you are expected to **practice at least thirty minutes a day, on average.**

Grading:

You will be graded on your *progress*. Evidence of real effort will contribute to a higher grade, whether or not you master each week's material. Lower grades result from unexcused absences and/or lack of effort. The midterms and finals will cover all material introduced to that point.

Weekly progress/attendance: 50%

Midterm exam: 25%

Final exam: 25%

IMPORTANT: Attendance is a major component of success in MUJZ 141. Personal conflicts do not qualify for makeup sessions. Makeups will be offered only if there is a documented medical issue or academic conflict. If you miss a class, you are expected to demonstrate your understanding of that week's material on the midterm or final exam.

Fall 2020 schedule – subject to revision

<u>Week # / Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignments/Tunes (due the following week)</u>
1) Aug. 21	Introduction, evals. Technic 1	Warmups, Hanon #1, Db scale
2) Aug. 28	Reading two clefs Transposition	“Mikrokosmos,” “London Bridge,” “Over the Rainbow”
3) Sep. 4	Triads	Diatonic and chromatic motion, inversions Comp: “When the Saints”
4) Sep. 11	Shell voicings 1	Maj.7, Dom.7, Min.7, half dim.7,dim.7 ii-V-I drills, “Autumn Leaves”
5) Sep. 18	Shell voicings 2 MIDTERM PREP	“Rhythm,” student pick
Sep. 25	MIDTERM EXAM	Covers all topics through week 5
6) Oct. 2	Guide Tones	Diatonic, chromatic motion ii-V-I drills, “Blues x 2”
7) Oct. 9	Walking bass	Turnaround loops, blues progressions
8) Oct. 16	4-voice technique “shell extensions”	Melodic patterns, diatonic motion “You Are Too Beautiful,” student pick
9) Oct. 23	3-voice comping	chromatic and diatonic movement “Now’s the Time”
10) Oct. 30	Tune study incl. improv	“Song For My Father”
11) Nov. 6	Modal style	Quartal triads, “So What”
Nov. 13	FINAL PREP	
Nov. 20	FINAL EXAM	Covers all material to date.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

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

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710 campussupport.usc.edu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101 diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.