

# MUJZ 450 Intermediate Jazz Improvisation

## Professor Thomas

**Units:** 2

**Time:** M/W 11:00-11:50AM

**Location:** TMC G131

**Office Hours:** 1:00PM-1:50PM Mondays and Wednesdays. Email to make an appointment. TMC 124

**E-mail:** [johnthom@usc.edu](mailto: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.

### **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.

**All assignments** (written out transcriptions, improvisations and recordings) will be uploaded to Google Docs.

"This course is being offered in an in-person modality. Please be attentive to the class attendance policy found in this syllabus. Online alternatives will not be considered unless I am presented with a directive from the offices of Student Health or Student Affairs. However, if on any day you are ill or otherwise cannot complete Trojan Check to produce a valid Campus Day Pass, stay home. In that case, contact me to make up work or otherwise maintain contact with the class."

#### 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](https://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/research-and-scholarship-misconduct](https://policy.usc.edu/research-and-scholarship-misconduct).

##### **Support Systems:**

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call

[studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://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](https://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](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault)

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

Office of Equity, Equal Opportunity and Title IX - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298

[eeotix.usc.edu](http://eeotix.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.symplcity.com/care\\_report](http://usc-advocate.symplcity.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 Student Accessibility Services - (213) 740-0776

[osas.usc.edu](http://osas.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](http://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](http://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](http://dps.usc.edu), [emergency.usc.edu](http://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.

[LiveSafe Mobile Safety App](#)

[TrojansAlert Emergency Notification System](#)

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-1200 – 24/7 on call

[dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu)

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Thornton Emergency Services

Thornton Emergency Response Team: If evacuation or other actions are needed, members of the Thornton Emergency Response Team will provide verbal instructions.

Thornton Business Continuity Team: Multi-channel messages will be sent to your phone, text, and email providing next steps in the case of an emergency or significant unexpected disruption to facilities or operations.