

Let's Teach Jazz



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Teaching jazz provides a fresh challenge for many teachers, however, classically trained musicians often lack confidence when exploring and teaching jazz concepts.

ABRSM jazz courses provide an excellent introduction to jazz for piano, woodwind or brass teachers. The courses are open to anyone interested in expanding their teaching repertoire or wishing to explore jazz with their students. You will explore jazz concepts and gain the confidence you need to teach jazz to your students.

Introductory Jazz Course

What is the introductory course about?

This four-day jazz course explores basic jazz concepts. You'll widen your knowledge and experience, build a firm understanding of jazz skills and develop teaching techniques for passing this on to your students.



What does the course involve?

You'll work in a mixture of whole-class groups and smaller groups, divided by instrument type where you'll put what you've learned into practice and develop your understanding. Your course leader will also introduce repertoire and technical tests from the Grade 1 jazz exam syllabus, and explain how to approach teaching this material to students. At the end of the course you take an ABRSM Grade 1 jazz exam on your chosen instrument.

“The course was fantastic... This is an excellent way to transfer from classical to jazz idiom.”

Helen Lunt – Let's Teach Jazz introductory course, London 2008

Intermediate Jazz Course

What is the intermediate course about?

You may find that you'd like to take your jazz playing and teaching even further. Our intermediate jazz course enables you to do just that. This course explores more advanced jazz concepts in detail and provides teaching ideas to get your students to an intermediate playing standard.

What does the course involve?

The intermediate course introduces more advanced concepts than the introductory course. You'll work in a mixture of whole-class groups and smaller groups divided by instrument type. You'll consolidate your knowledge of beginner jazz concepts and build on them to reach a more advanced level. Your course leader will help you to put these new skills into practice and develop your understanding. They'll also introduce repertoire and technical tests from the ABRSM jazz exam syllabus and explain how to approach teaching this material to students. At the end of the course you'll take an ABRSM jazz exam on your chosen instrument at either Grade 2 or 3.

Contact Us

Talk to us about your professional development needs:

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E profdev@abrsm.ac.uk

Try a Jazz Taster Day

Still not sure if these courses are for you?

Jazz taster days are a one-day introduction to jazz, to give you an idea of what the four-day introductory course will cover. During the day you'll learn about the basic concepts of jazz, exploring themes and ideas, and work in smaller groups to develop those ideas further. Everyone brings their instrument along to take part in the practical elements of the day (except pianists).

What qualifications do I need?

You don't need any formal qualifications to enrol on our jazz courses, however, you should already be an instrumental music teacher. You don't need any prior experience of jazz for the introductory course, but the intermediate course requires a reasonable understanding of the basics. The courses have a strong practical element, so you'll need to bring your instrument along with you (except pianists).



What are the benefits for me?

- **Expand your teaching and performing repertoire**

Jazz presents a new challenge for both teachers and students. Our jazz courses provide an excellent opportunity to explore this exciting genre. They also offer excellent professional development for instrumental teachers who wish to enhance their skills in this area.

- **Develop your musicianship skills**

You'll learn to play and teach jazz tunes, improvisation, jazz scales and chords. All of these things will add to your own musicianship skills, enabling you to teach beginner jazz more effectively.

- **Gain confidence in teaching jazz to your students**

Throughout the course your course leader will explore the various elements of jazz with you and demonstrate ways to teach basic concepts to your students. You will have opportunities to try out these ideas with your course colleagues. Your course leader will also be able to answer any questions you have about incorporating what you have learned into your teaching.

- **Inject fun and variety into your lessons**

Jazz can be fun and challenging, and it develops excellent musicianship skills. This is a great way to get your students enthused about playing, improvising and exploring new repertoire.





“The course was fabulous and I am determined to keep the momentum going on the jazz side. I’m very much looking forward to going on the intermediate course.”

Margaret Brown – Let’s Teach Jazz introductory course, Manchester 2008

“I thought this was a thoroughly worthwhile day and well worth the money. Our course leader was charming, put everyone at their ease really quickly and helped to de-mystify the whole jazz/improvisation myth. A very informative and enjoyable day.”

Linda Harland – Let’s Teach Jazz taster day, Bristol 2007

Teaching Resources

Jazz Piano From Scratch

Charles Beale

Jazz Piano from Scratch provides a complete step-by-step guide to playing jazz with confidence and style. Ideal for guiding beginners through the early stages and towards playing their first solos.

Includes:

- Activities to develop skills
- Full-length CD to illustrate teaching points and provide an exhilarating backdrop to your work

Other titles available:

The AB Real Book C# Edition
The AB Real Book Bb Edition
The AB Real Book Eb Edition
The AB Real Book C# Edition



Jazz Tenor Sax Tunes level/Grade 1 (part, score and CD)
Jazz Tenor Sax Tunes level/Grade 2 (part, score and CD)
Jazz Tenor Sax Tunes level/Grade 3 (part, score and CD)
Jazz Tenor Sax CD level/Grade 4
Jazz Tenor Sax CD level/Grade 5
Jazz Sax Scales Levels/Grades 1–5
Jazz Sax Aural Tests & Quick Studies levels/Grades 1–5

The above titles are also available for Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax, Trumpet and Trombone

Available from all good music shops or visit www.abrsm.org

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