Brighton Jazz School

Learn to Play Information Pack

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Why Do This Course?

Our Learn to Play Course is our longest standing course, it is our most intensive and most popular course. We believe in learning jazz in the most authentic way; by listening, copying and playing. This is not new but in fact the traditional way of learning this music. Jazz education, in many ways has diluted the importance of these three basic tools. Most jazz books blind you with science and maths, I bet you have a few of them. Have you ever asked yourself how the great players got great without any jazz books? Don't get me wrong, there are some great books out there but the simple fact is you don't need them. Any of them. My teacher the great James Williams always used to say 'All of the answers are in the records'. He is of course, absolutely correct. So if that is true, why do a course? We offer you much more than just a structured course, we offer you the chance to be a part of a jazz community. A community that listens together, a community that learns together and a community that plays and does gigs together. This is the best and quickest way to learn. Understanding the mathematical nature of music theory is utterly pointless unless you can hear and understand them from an aural perspective. No jazz musician in the world is performing high level maths in their head while improvising. In fact, there is relatively little cognition occurring as you improvise, rather like when you are talking to someone and your verbal ideas are flowing. Playing jazz is exactly the same process. The best speakers are the ones who have listened the most because their answers are better informed. They are able to adapt and 'go with the flow' of the conversation in intelligent and creative ways and best of all, it is effortless. So learning jazz is just like learning another language. Listen, copy, play. Its that simple. So why do this course? It is simple; we provide you with the tools to be able to listen, copy and play. We help you to be able to hear and construct and deconstruct melody and we give you the platform and playing opportunities to try out your ideas in a supportive and fun environment. Throw away your chord/scale books, unlock your ears and begin your journey to effortless, authentic jazz improvisation.

Who is this course aimed at?

Learn to Play is aimed at people of all ages who have some experience of improvisation and some previous knowledge: Major Scales, able to play major, minor and dominant chords for chord players. We cover the basics but it helps if you are already somewhat familiar with them. This course runs from 11am-6pm on Tuesdays so you must be committed to each session. There is also a weekly gigging opportunity available on Wednesday evenings (7pm-8pm) so it will benefit you greatly if you can take part in that. If you have any questions regarding your suitability don't hesitate to get in touch: brightonjazzschool@gmail.com

We pride ourselves on being affordable and inclusive, we accept any musician of any age and background with one caveat; you must be dedicated to learning jazz. We are the perfect choice for the following people:

- Students wishing to take a year out before Music School/University
- Students who can't afford to go to University (you really do not need a degree to play jazz!)
- Serious musicians wanting to take their playing to the next level
- Retired/Self Employed/Part-Time Musicians
- Musicians from other genres wanting to learn Jazz.
- We specialise in converting non-improvising Classical Musicians over to the dark side.

Course Content

The Learn to Play Course runs over 3 terms (10 weeks each) and covers different aspects of playing jazz. As mentioned before, our courses are all practical and are centered around hearing things first. Each term works towards a final concert and we provide weekly performance opportunities for all our students at the Verdict Jazz Club on Wednesday evenings. Below is an outline of each term.

Term 1 - Jazz Fundamentals
This term is all about making sure you can hear and respond to basic harmony such as major, minor, dominant, half diminished and fully diminished 7th chords. Rhythm Training; Sharpening up your sense of time using basic Konnakol (Indian Vocal Percussion). Hearing important progressions such as the II-V-I and III-VI-II-V turnarounds. Jazz Phraseology; how to use chord tones, scalic fragments, arpeggios and chromatic notes to play through chord changes in an authentic way. Learning key jazz repertoire such as the Blues, Standards and Rhythm Changes and being able to transpose into different keys.

Term 2 - Jazz Essentials
This term builds on the previous term and delves into the richer, more complex harmony such as minor II-V-Is, 'Phrygian' Chords, Altered and Diminished Sounds, more advanced Jazz Phraseology; Bebop and Postbop melodic ideas; Lydian Sounds, Quartal Ideas and Outside playing. More complex rhythmic development: subdivisions: double time ideas and poly-rhythms.

Term 3 - Jazz Practicals
The third term is all about the practicalities of playing jazz in different settings. Looking at things like: Afro-Cuban Music (delivered by Tutor and Pianist Terry Seabrook), How to setup Intros and Endings, Playing in Odd Time Signatures, Stage Presence and Mic Techniques, Performance Anxiety and more. We have a grand finale 'End of Year Concert' that will showcase your hard work over the three terms.

How is it Structured and Delivered?

The structure and delivery of our courses are highly engineered to maximise your progress. It does take time (and practice) for the concepts to start to work their way naturally into your playing and the flexibility of the course allows you to work at your own pace. Here is the outline of the day:

Time	Activity	Tutor	Outcome
10.30-11am	Coffee/Setup	-	-
11am-11.45am	**Jazz Phraseology**	Kate Hogg	Learning to sing and play authentic jazz melodies by ear on relevant material for 'core subject' eg. II-V-I lines. Kate will also be covering fundamental chord concepts.
11.45-12.15am	**Chord Recognition**	Wayne McConnell	Training to hear and recognise major 7th, minor 7th and dominant 7th chords and chord extensions (9ths, #11ths etc).
12.15-1pm	**Rhythmic Development**	Wayne McConnell and Kate Hogg	Using basic Konnakol techniques to sharpen up rhythmic abilities. Jazz Articulation.
1pm-1.30pm	**Improvisation Development**	Wayne McConnell and Kate Hogg	Soloing on relevant material with 1-1 feedback from tutors
1.30 - 2.45pm	**Lunch**	-	-
2.45 - 5.30pm	**Small Group Work**	Wayne McConnell and Kate Hogg	Guided rehearsal for groups - playing relevant material
5.30pm-6pm	**Performances or Q+A Session**	Wayne McConnell and Kate Hogg	Small groups perform to each other for group feedback or Q+A session about relevant material or what to practice.

How is my Progress Monitored?

It is very important to be aware of your progress and students are issued with a 'diary' to keep track of your listening, practicing and playing habits. Tutors are available to give as much 1-1 attention as possible, we are not in the business of 'jazz conveyer belts', each student learns differently and it is important to us to maintain a direct line of communication with each student to ensure they are maximising the time. Tutors will go out their way to pinpoint bad habits, but also to celebrate the triumphs and successes. Our tutors and clinicians are chosen for their excellent performance abilities, teaching skills and most importantly, their passionate need to pass on skills and information.

When does it start and how do I join?

Term 1 starts on **Tuesday 22nd of September**

Join Us!

Joining us could not be simpler just follow the steps below:

1) Fill in the online enrolment form: http://goo.gl/forms/hl35KQo7jg
2) Pay the tuition fee here