

NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

School of Preparatory Education

Jazz Department Information

Hi, and welcome to the NEC Prep Jazz Department. The information given in this document should answer most, if not all of your questions about Jazz classes, Jazz lessons, and Jazz ensembles at NEC Prep. Please print out and read this document and the attached Jazz placement audition form. If you are interested in Jazz Theory or Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application, please leave a message at 617-585-1130 with a FAX number or address, or e-mail dzoffer@newenglandconservatory.edu to request an e-mail of the five page Jazz Theory Placement quiz. The document you are now reading is designed to inform you about the courses offered by the NEC Prep Jazz Dept., to describe what happens during the Jazz Placement audition meeting, and to explain how to register and pay for Prep Jazz classes.

Placement Auditions

The first step is to call NEC at 617-585-1130 and schedule a time for a Jazz Placement Audition. This year, the placement auditions occur on **Sat., Sept 6th**, from 9AM until 5:00PM. If you are not able to be present at the **Sat., Sept. 6th** audition, there are a limited number of slots available on **Sun, Sept. 7th** starting at 12PM, and **Mon., Sept. 8th** starting at 4PM. If it is not possible to meet at NEC **on Sep. 8th-Sept. 10th**, then please leave a message for Jazz department chair David Zoffer at 617-585-1100 ext. 5709. On this message please include a call back time, name, and phone number, and your call will be returned to set up another time for the Jazz Placement audition meeting.

Any student older than eight, on any instrument or voice, at any level, may audition for placement in the NEC Prep Jazz Dept. Most students are between eleven and eighteen, but occasionally there are students of other ages in the Prep Jazz program. Students familiar with Jazz music should be prepared to play two contrasting Jazz pieces, and if they would like accompaniment, they should bring charts in concert key. Transcriptions or original compositions are acceptable, but not required. Students who have not played Jazz should be prepared to play any two contrasting pieces of their choice in whatever style of music they are currently familiar with. Drummers should bring their own sticks, brushes, cymbals, and a hi-hat clutch if they have one. NEC will provide amplification at the audition, but students may bring their own amps if they like. Electric instrumentalists must bring their own cords to the audition.

To get directions to NEC, call 617-585-1100 or check on the internet at:
<http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu/directions/index.html>

The Jazz Placement auditions will take place in room 356 in the Jordan Hall building. This building is on the corner of Huntington Ave. and Gainsborough St. Due to the heavy use of ensemble rooms at NEC, this room is occasionally moved to 254 or another room at the last minute. In the case of a room change, a sign will be posted at room 356.

To get to Jordan Hall room 356:

1. Enter the Jordan Hall building.
2. After the entrance, check in with the guard to sign in
3. Turn right at the security desk and walk down the hall.
4. Walk past the statue of Beethoven on your left, and continue to the elevator.
5. Take the elevator to the third floor. At the third floor, take a left out of the elevator, walk through the double doors and follow the hallway to room 356.

If the elevator is broken and you have to take the stairs next to the elevator, you should know that there is a Mezzanine level between the 1st and 2nd floor. If you are not taking the elevator, walk up the stairs until you reach the top floor.

Classes, Lessons and Ensembles

At the audition, the student should bring in the completed Jazz Placement Audition form, because the Jazz department chair will make further notes on that form, and use it to place students in private lessons, ensembles, and classes. Forms will be made available at the audition site. If you have an interest in taking a Jazz Theory class or Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application, then bring in the completed Jazz Theory placement quiz into the audition, or pick up a quiz at the audition site and complete it before you leave. This placement quiz helps the NEC Prep Jazz Dept. to determine what theory class is appropriate, and to know if a student's level of theory background is sufficient enough to be placed in the Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application course.

All classes and ensembles happen on Saturday for one hour each week at the same time. In order to make sure that the greatest number of students get to take the most classes and ensembles that they want to, the weekly Saturday class and ensemble times are not scheduled until after the Jazz placement auditions, when the department chair gathers every student's schedule availability. It is very helpful for students to be able to list their other scheduled Saturday activities on the Jazz Placement audition form, whether they are at NEC or not. Classes and ensembles will run at 9AM, 10AM, 11AM, 1PM, 2PM, 3PM, and 4PM. The department chair will make every effort to make student schedules filled with as many consecutive classes as possible, and as few gaps as possible between classes.

- **Jazz Classes** start on **Sat. Sept. 13th** and have thirty meetings over the course of both fall and spring semesters. Notification for class schedule will be on the evening of **Fri. Sept 12th**.
- **Jazz Ensembles** start on **Sat., Sept. 20th**. Notification for ensemble time will be the evening of **Fri., Sept. 19th**. Ensembles run for only twenty-eight meetings over the course of both the fall and spring semesters.
- **Jazz Lessons** start **Sat., Sept. 27th**. The student will be notified of their private lesson time by either the department chair or the private lesson instructor on the

evening of **Fri. Sept. 26th**. Weekly private lessons may be scheduled on a day of the week other than Saturday, if it is the only way that the instructor will have time to meet with a private student. Private lessons are available on all instruments and voice at all levels. Teachers and students set up a mutually convenient time to meet. Each fifteen-week semester students register for lessons. Unlike classes and ensembles, a student pays for lessons at the beginning of September for the 1st set of fifteen weeks, and then again at the end of January for the second set of fifteen weeks. Lessons can be of any length that the student and teacher mutually agree on. The department chair places all students with private teachers.

- **Jazz Evaluations** (a short performance in front of several jazz faculty at the end of the Spring semester which counts as one lesson) occur later than in the rest of the NEC Prep school (**Sat., May 23rd, 2009**).

Classes and ensembles are paid for at the beginning of the fall semester and the payment covers tuition for the duration of class in both fall and spring semesters. Rates and fees include:

- If a student chooses to take private lessons through NEC Prep, they receive a discount of **\$315** on each class and ensemble that they register for. Without a discount, each class and ensemble costs **\$925** for both semesters, but if the student takes private lessons through NEC, then each class and ensemble costs **\$610** for both semesters.
- The private lesson rate is **\$97/hour**, or **\$1455** for fifteen, one hour, non-credit lessons. Lessons can also be arranged in 30-minute and 45-minute rates, or **\$72.75** and **\$48.50**, respectively.

Each time a student registers for classes, ensembles, and/or private lessons at the beginning of the fall semester, the student pays a **\$35** registration fee for that semester. Students that take private lessons for both the Fall and Spring semesters will pay the registration fee twice. There is no pro-rating system for classes and ensembles. Make-up private lesson policy is at the discretion of each individual teacher.

Course Descriptions

The purpose of the Jazz placement audition is not only for faculty to get to meet and hear students, but also to help the students pick which classes should be taken that year, based on level of advancement and schedule. The average NEC Prep Jazz student takes a Jazz lesson, a Jazz ensemble and at least one Jazz class each week. By reading the following course descriptions below, you will be in a more informed position to discuss class selection with the Jazz dept. chair at the end of the playing portion of the Jazz Placement audition.

The following classes have a more complete description in Prep catalogs. All classes will require a portable recorder.

1. *Jazz Theory 1-Joel Yennior*-This class is recommended for students who are not familiar with basic jazz harmonic vocabulary. There is in class listening to recorded examples of Jazz theory in actual practice. Students will also learn to apply the theory concepts to their instruments. Students also compose pieces demonstrating their

- familiarity with Jazz theory concepts. It is important to note that very different material is covered in this class than in a classical theory class. This class will make Jazz private lesson time more effective, because the private teacher can concentrate on technique and improvisation instead spending time on building a solid theory foundation. The information covered in this class is so critical to Jazz players, that if it is not covered in a class setting, a private teacher will end up spending lesson time on it.
2. *Jazz Theory 2 or 3-Rick McLaughlin*-This class covers more advanced concepts than in Jazz Theory 1. The same basic format is used from Jazz Theory 1, but there is more emphasis on improvisational application and composition than in Jazz Theory 1. Students must take Jazz Theory 1 as a prerequisite or test into this class with the Jazz theory placement quiz.
 3. *Jazz Ear Training-Rani Katsenelenbogen (advanced), Joel Yennior (introduction)*-Jazz Ear Training class sections are created by placing students with similar levels of Jazz aural skills. Placement for this class is done during the Jazz Placement auditions, although usually there is only one section of this class. Emphasis is on ear identification, vocal imitation, and rhythmic development. This class is strongly recommended for instrumentalists who need to make a stronger connection to what they hear when they improvise, instead of just playing preconceived phrases.
 4. *Introduction to Improvisation for Strings Workshop -David Eure*-This class introduces string players to different improvisational styles. It is very hands on, and is designed to open classical string instrumentalists to different improvisational musics including Jazz, Blues, Funk, Latin Jazz, Fusion, and Indian Classical.
 5. *History of Jazz-Rick McLaughlin*-This class is strongly recommended for those who have not heard that much jazz. The focus is on listening and reading some background information. There is not that much homework. Presentations are done at the end of semesters, but the emphasis is on exposure to recorded material, rather than paper writing. This course is crucial for beginners, because it will help them find out which styles of Jazz inspire them, and make them informed listeners. A Jazz student must be able to tell his/her private teacher about their favorite Jazz artists or styles of Jazz, for the quickest musical growth to occur.
 6. *Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application-David Zoffer*-This is a modular, four semester (two year) course in which students analyze many different compositional and improvisational techniques from recordings and transcriptions, and then requires the student to compose and improvise using those techniques. This class requires some theory background.
 7. *Jazz Ensembles (Small Groups)-coordinated by David Zoffer*-Jazz ensembles may include any instrument and/or voice at all levels. There are at least ten Jazz ensembles each year. It is required for all ensemble members to take private Jazz improvisation lessons (but the teacher does not have to be NEC Prep Jazz Faculty) in order to be in a Jazz Ensemble. Studying with a Jazz teacher at NEC is beneficial, because the ensemble coaches are in constant contact with the private teachers, and they often help guide each other for benefit of their common students. The ensembles are small

- and all the players in the ensemble will be featured as soloists, so the students will require outside help from a private Jazz teacher in order to make the most progress. These are small ensembles usually with drums, piano, and bass, and then a few other instruments added to each group. Usually the coach of the group plays an instrument with the students. The Jazz ensembles perform each semester for twenty to thirty minutes at Sat recitals (usually at the same time as rehearsal), if student schedules allow. The material in these groups is always very wide-ranging in style in order to expose the students to the most kinds of Jazz. Student arrangements and compositions are also often included as material for ensembles.
8. *Private Lessons-coordinated by David Zoffer*-Private Jazz lessons are available for all ages, instruments and/or voice and levels and may include composition at the students request
 9. *Youth Jazz Orchestra, Ken Schaphorst, Director*-The Orchestra will be directed by celebrated jazz artist Ken Schaphorst, who chairs NEC's college jazz studies department and directs the college-level jazz orchestra. The ensemble will rehearse on Wednesday evenings, 7–9pm, beginning in September, and is open to pre-college-age trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, guitar, bass, and percussion players. Auditions will take place on Sunday, May 4, and Friday, May 9. Students may schedule an audition for the NEC Youth Jazz Orchestra at necprepauditions.com. Students should come prepared to play a jazz piece of any sort (for example, a part they play in their school band or another ensemble would be fine). They should bring an extra copy so Schaphorst can play with them. We hope to also provide a rhythm section for the auditions. If students have experience improvising, they should demonstrate that, but it is not a requirement. Students will also be asked to sightread. Wednesdays 7:00–9:00 p.m., \$865; discounted: with lessons \$610

Jazz Certificate Requirements

The Jazz Certificate is a four level degree style program in which the students gradually take all the courses offered by the NEC Prep Jazz Program. At the conclusion of Level 3 a thirty minute recital is given. At the end of Level 4, an hour recital is performed. College letters of recommendation often ask for information regarding this kind of program.

Students may test out of taking Jazz Theory 1. If they test out of it, then the required credits for Level 3 and 4 will drop by one if this is the case. Advanced students may also enter into the certificate Level 3 if they take a Jazz ensemble and at least two Jazz classes that year, and give the recital at the end of that year, with permission from the Jazz department chair.

Students must be taking private Jazz lessons through NEC in order to be in the Prep Jazz Certificate Program.

The classes necessary to complete a Level 4 Jazz Certificate are as follows:

- Jazz Theory 1=1 credit
- Jazz Theory 2=1 credit
- Jazz Ear Training=1 credit

- Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application (two years, or 4 semesters)=1 credit every two semesters (one year) of class
- Jazz History=1 credit
- Jazz Private Lesson=1 credit
- Small Jazz Ensemble or Introduction to Improvisation for Strings=1 credit. Small Jazz Ensemble can only be applied for a total of 3 credits over the course of the 4 levels, and is optional during level 1. The course can be taken as many times as desired, however, and at least one Small Jazz ensemble course must be taken during levels 2,3, and 4.

Level 1

Meet instrumental repertoire & technique requirements. 2 credits total

Level 2

Meet instrumental repertoire & technique requirements. 5 credits total

Level 3

Meet instrumental repertoire & technique requirements. Complete Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application 1st two semesters. Jazz Stylistic Analysis and Application requires completion of Jazz Theory 1 or permission of the instructor.

Present recital of at least 30 minutes. 9 credits total

Level 4

Meet instrumental repertoire & technique requirements. Complete Jazz Styles and Application 3rd and 4th semesters (2nd year of the class). Must have taken all Jazz courses (except introduction to String Improvisation). Present a full hour recital. 13 credits total.

Registration

After all the decisions have been made about which courses are to be taken, the next step is registration. Registration includes course payment, and payment occurs before courses are attended.

Registration forms will be available at the Jazz placement audition. On these forms the student will list the all classes he/she is taking at NEC (not just the Jazz dept.), add up the total cost of tuition, and write a check to New England Conservatory or pay with credit card. There will be registration desks set up in Brown Hall in the Jordan Hall building on **Sat., Sept. 6th**, or you can mail the registration form to NEC. After **Sat., Sept. 6th**, registration will take place in the Prep and Continuing Ed. Office, which is located in the St. Botolph Building on the corner of St. Botolph Street and Mass Ave. For questions about scholarship please call 617-585-1130. There is a payment plan using a credit card, and more information on that is available in the NEC Prep Catalog. The Catalog's contents are available on line at www.newenglandconservatory.edu, and printed catalogs are available from the Prep office in the St. Botolph building. To receive a copy, please call 617-585-1130 and leave your address.