

# NEW ENGLAND CONSERVATORY

School of Continuing Education

## Jazz Department Information

Hi, and welcome to the NEC School of Continuing Education 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 SCE. Please print out and read this document and the attached Jazz placement audition form. If you are interested in Jazz Theory, Jazz Composition and Analysis, or Jazz Arranging, please leave a message at 617-585-1130 with a FAX number or address, or e-mail [dzoffer@newenglandconservatory.edu](mailto: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 SCE Jazz Dept., to describe what happens during the Jazz Placement audition meeting, and to explain how to register and pay for 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. 7<sup>th</sup>** 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 eighteen or older (although on rare occasions we have younger students participating in the SCE), on any instrument or voice, at any level, may audition for placement in the NEC SCE Jazz Department. 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. This form is an integral part of the process and will help ensure that the student will be placed in appropriate private lessons, ensembles, and classes. Forms will be made available at the audition site. If you have an interest in taking Jazz Theory, Jazz Composition and Analysis, or Jazz Arranging, 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. Like the Audition Form, the Placement Quiz helps the NEC SCE Jazz Dept. place students in courses at the appropriate level.

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 the times of their scheduled weekly activities on the Jazz Placement audition form. 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.

- **Classes** start on **Sat. Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>** and **weekday classes start Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>** with weekly meetings over the course of each fifteen-week semester. Students will be notified about Sat classes by the evening of **Fri. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>**, and weekday classes **Sun., Sept 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- **Lessons** start on **Sat. Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** and have as many meetings as the student and teacher agree to over the course of the fifteen-week semester. Usually students take fifteen lessons (an hour lesson each week) or 7.5 lessons (an hour lesson every other week), but other numbers of lessons are possible at the discretion of the private teacher.
- **Ensembles** have fourteen meetings and one concert at the end of each semester, in January and June, respectively. Saturday ensembles begin **Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>**, with notification on **Fri., Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>**. Weekday ensembles begin **Mon., Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>** with notification **Sunday Sep. 28<sup>th</sup>**.

Private lessons are available on all instruments and voice at all levels from professional to beginner. Composition lessons are also possible at the student's request. Teachers and students set up a mutually convenient time to meet. Lessons can be of any length that the student and teacher mutually agree on. The department chair places all students with private teachers.

SCE students can take classes for credit or non-credit. Credit classes can be used towards completion of the SCE Jazz Certificate program (additional information to follow), or they can be used as elective credits towards some college degrees or professional development. Once a class is registered for non-credit, it cannot be upgraded to credit status.

The private lesson rates are:

- For **non-credit** lessons, **\$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.
- For **credit** lessons, the cost is \$2100, which includes fifteen, one hour lessons that result in four credits. Lessons are also offered for less credit, in which case the costs are \$1575 for 11.25 hours of lesson time, resulting in 3 credits, and \$1050 for 7.5 hours of lesson time, resulting in 2 credits.

Each time a student registers for classes, ensembles, and/or private lessons at the beginning of the each semester, the student pays a **\$35** registration fee for that semester. 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 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 SCE Jazz student takes a Jazz lesson, a Jazz ensemble and/or 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 the SCE catalog. All classes will require a portable recorder. **Other days and/or times are possible for the classes.**

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.

Year (2 semester class), 15 meetings, Mon. 6-7:30PM, (other times scheduled as needed)  
**non-credit \$565** per semester, **1.5 credits \$785** per semester  
**Fall: Starts Sept 15, Spring: Starts Jan 26**

2. *Jazz Theory 2-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.

Year (2 semester class), 15 meetings, Tue. 6-7:30PM, (other times scheduled as needed)

**non-credit \$565** per semester, **1.5 credits \$785** per semester  
**Fall: Starts Sept 16, Spring Starts Jan 27**

3. *Jazz Ear Training 1 -Rani Katsenelenbogen*-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. 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.

Year (2 semester class), 15 meetings, Mon. 7:30-8:30PM, (other times scheduled as needed)

**non-credit \$375** per semester, **1 credit \$525** per semester  
**Fall: Starts Sept 15, Spring: Starts Jan 26**

4. *Jazz Ear Training 2- Rani Katsenelenbogen*-A continuation and expansion of Jazz Ear Training 1. Students learn how to sing Jazz voice leading lines, identify extended Jazz harmony, imitate complex rhythmic figures, transcribe complex melodies and solos, and imitate singers and instrumentalists. The class includes singing and playing of instruments.

Prerequisite completion of Jazz Ear Training 1 or permission of the instructor.

Year (2 semester class), 15 meetings, Mon. 8:30-9:30PM, (other times scheduled as needed)

**non-credit \$375** per semester, **1 credit \$525** per semester  
**Fall: Starts Sept 15, Spring: Starts Jan 26**

5. *Survey of American Jazz (Jazz History)-Rick McLaughlin*-This class focuses on exposure to recordings and in class discussion of the history of Jazz from its African roots through the present day. There are listening and reading assignments. Presentations are done at the end of semesters on a live Jazz performance of the student's choice. This course is crucial, because it will help students 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, and the jazz ensembles always draw on many eras of jazz in each semester's repertoire.

(Year) 2 semester class, 15 meetings, Tues 7-9PM (other times possible)

**non-credit \$710** per semester, **2 credits \$1000** per semester  
**Fall: Starts Sept 22, Spring Starts Feb 2**

6. *Jazz Composition and Analysis-Rick McLaughlin*-This course focuses on various techniques of composing such as motivic development, rhythmic manipulation, and reharmonization-as well as on the structure of form and phrase. Exercises and assignments stem from an in-depth analysis of important Jazz compositions and recordings.

Prerequisite: completion or enrollment in Jazz Theory 2 or permission of the instructor.

Fall semester only, 15 meetings, Tue. 9-10:30PM (other times scheduled as needed)

**non-credit \$535** per semester, **1.5 credits \$750** per semester

### **Starts Sept 16**

7. *Jazz Arranging-Rick McLaughlin*-This course teaches students to compose and arrange parts for a small jazz ensemble. Topics covered include Jazz notation for both rhythmic and melodic instruments; ranges and basic timbres of woodwind and brass instruments; technical limitations of instruments; writing introductions, interludes, background figures, and endings; and in class demonstrations by professional musicians.

Prerequisite: completion or enrollment in Jazz Theory 2 or permission of the instructor. Spring semester only, 15 meetings, Tue. 9-10:30 PM (other times scheduled as needed) **non-credit \$535 per semester, 1.5 credits \$750 per semester Starts Jan 29.**

8. *Jazz Ensembles-coordinated by David Zoffer*-These are for all instruments and voice at all levels. There are around five SCE 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 SCE 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 need 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 once each semester for an hour recital. 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. Ensembles usually are scheduled on weekday evenings and also between 12PM and 5PM on Saturday afternoons.

Two semesters (students usually continue with the same ensemble in both semesters), 14 meetings and 1 recital, 90 minutes TBA Sat. afternoon or weekday evening,

**1.5 credits or non-credit \$785 per semester  
Fall: Starts Sep 27, Spring: Starts Jan 31**

9. *Private Lessons-coordinated by David Zoffer*- These are for all ages, levels, instruments & voice. Composition and improvisation, and theory are also offered at the request of the student. See page 3 for prices. **Fall: Starts Sep 27, Spring: Starts Jan 31**

## **Jazz Certificate Requirements**

The SCE Jazz Certificate is a program in which the student gradually takes all the SCE Jazz classes and a few electives, culminating in a recital. The International Certificate Program is for international students only and is only done for students looking to study at NEC SCE Jazz for an intensive two-year program that has visa status. All Certificate students have yearly evaluations given by at least four members of NEC faculty.

### **Requirements for Jazz Certificate**

*Three to Eight-Year Program (48 Credits Total)*

Jazz Theory 1 |2 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|3 credits total

Jazz Theory 2 |2 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|3 credits total

Jazz History |2 Semesters|2.0 credits per semester|4 credits total

Jazz Ear Training 1|2 Semesters|1.0 credit per semester|2 credits total  
Jazz Ear Training 2|2 Semesters|1.0 credit per semester|2 credits total  
Jazz Composition 1|1 Semester|1.5 credits per semester|1.5 credits total (fall semester only)  
Jazz Arranging 1|1 Semester|1.5 credits per semester|1.5 credits total (spring semester only)  
Jazz Ensembles 1|6 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|9 credits total  
Jazz Studio 1|6 Semesters|4.0 credits per 15 hours of lesson time|24 credits total  
Electives are taken in place of Jazz Ear Training 1&2, Jazz Arranging, or Jazz Composition in some instances at the discretion of the chair. At least 2 semesters of Jazz Ear Training (1 or 2) are required. No more than 4 elective can be applied towards the completion of the certificate.

### **Requirements for International Student Jazz Certificate**

*Two Year Program (48 Credits Total)*

Jazz Theory 1 |2 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|3 credits total  
Jazz Theory 2 |2 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|3 credits total  
Jazz History |2 Semesters|2.0 credits per semester|4 credits total  
Jazz Ear Training 1|2 Semesters|1.0 credit per semester|2 credits total  
Jazz Ear Training 2|2 Semesters|1.0 credit per semester|2 credits total  
Jazz Composition 1|1 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|1.5 credits total (fall semester only)  
Jazz Arranging 1|1 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|1.5 credits total (spring semester only)  
Jazz Ensembles 1|4 Semesters|1.5 credits per semester|6 credits total  
Jazz Studio 1 |4 Semesters|4.0 credits per 15 hours of lesson time|16 credits total  
Jazz Studio 2 |2 Semesters|4.0 credits per 15 hours of lesson time|8 credits total  
Electives are taken in place of Jazz Ear Training 1&2, Jazz Arranging, or Jazz Composition in some instances at the discretion of the chair. At least 2 semesters of Jazz Ear Training (1 or 2) are required. No more than 4 elective credits can be applied to the completion of the certificate. SCE Jazz inquiries can be sent to dzoffer@newenglandconservatory.edu or left as a voicemail message at 617-585-1100 ext. 5709.

### **Registration**

After all the decisions have been made about which courses are to be taken, the next step is registration. Registration includes course payment. Payment needs to be made 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 for the semester, and write a check for the full amount 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. 6<sup>th</sup>**, or you can mail the registration form to NEC. After **Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>**, 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 SCE Catalog. The Catalog's contents are available online at <http://www.newenglandconservatory.edu>, and printed catalogs are available from the SCE office in the St. Botolph building. To receive a copy, please call 617-585-1130 and leave your address.