Minor in Jazz Studies

The Minor in Jazz Studies is intended for undergraduates who wish to emphasize the study of jazz in addition to their major area of focus. While no audition is required, permission to enroll is granted through the Associate Director for Academic Affairs of the School of Music. The Minor in Jazz Studies includes courses in arranging, improvisation, history, theory, ensemble experiences, and electives.

Music Theory andImprovisation: 4-5 credit hours

- MUS 3770 – Jazz Improvisation I; 1 hr. – typically offered fall semester
- MUS 4050 – Jazz Theory I; 2 hrs. – typically offered spring semester alternating years

And one of the following:
- MUS 3771 – Improvisation II; 1 hr. – typically offered spring semester, as needed
- MUS 4051 – Jazz Theory II (Jazz Arranging); 2 hrs. – typically offered spring semester alternating years

Music History and Literature: 4-5 credit hours

- MUS 3625 – Jazz History; 3 hrs. (Tier II) – typically offered summer session

And one of the following:
- MUS 1210 – Intro to World Music; 3 hrs. (Tier II) – typically offered every semester
- MUS 1240 – History of Rock Music I; 2 hrs. (Tier II) – typically offered every semester
- MUS 4250 – Music of Africa; 2 hrs. – typically offered fall semester

Jazz Ensembles: 4 credit hours

- MUS 2543 – Jazz Percussion Ensemble; 0.5 hrs.
- MUS 2550 – Jazz Ensemble (big band and/or combo); 1 hr.

Suggested Electives: 5-6 credit hours

- MUS 2240 – History of Rock Music II; 2 hrs. – check for availability
- MUS 2480 – African Ensemble I; 1 hr.
- MUS 2481 – African Ensemble II; 1 hr.
- MUS 4650 – Jazz Ensemble Methods; 1 hr. – typically offered fall semester (permission required)

Courses listed above under Music Theory-Improvisation and Music History-Literature may be taken as electives if not being used to meet the degree requirements in those areas.

Minimum Credit Hours Required: 18

Ohio University Jazz Ensembles

The jazz ensembles include two big bands, jazz combos, and the Jazz Percussion Ensemble. Numerous concerts provide students with a variety of performance opportunities. Guest artists including Jamey Aebersold, Jeff Coffin, Steve Houghton, Jim McNeely, Jane Monheit, Sarah Morrow, Bill Watrous, and Gerald Wilson have joined the ensembles for performances and master classes. The jazz combos focus on group interaction, improvisation, and stylistic awareness through music by artists such as John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, Charles Mingus, and Wayne Shorter.
Ohio University Jazz Percussion Ensemble

One of the first groups to blend jazz and world music with percussion, the Jazz Percussion Ensemble (JPE) was founded by Percussion Professor Emeritus, Guy Remonko. Emphasizing improvisation and creativity, the JPE has created a unique repertoire that has gained national attention. The ensemble has performed for the Ohio Music Educators Association Conference and the Percussive Arts Society International Convention, as well as at schools and colleges throughout the region. The group’s performances have featured guest artists including Dave Samuels, Ted Piltzecker, Bill Molenhof, and Roland Vazquez.

Ohio University African Music Ensembles

The African Music Ensembles bring together students from across the university to study and perform a wide variety of music from across the African continent. The ensembles perform regularly throughout each academic year, participate in various symposia, and are featured on AZA, a major celebration of African music and culture presented each spring on campus.

About the School of Music

One of four schools in the College of Fine Arts, the School of Music is a significant part of the vibrant cultural life of the Ohio campus. Our students, faculty, and guest artists present over 200 concerts annually. A distinguished faculty of 45 professors serves a primarily residential student body of approximately 250 undergraduate and 65 masters’ students. The School of Music also houses the Athens Community Music School, which provides lessons, ensembles and courses to students of all ages from Southeast Ohio. School of Music students have the opportunity to teach through the ACMS, gaining highly valuable professional experience. School of Music alumni hold prominent teaching and professional positions in a variety of music fields throughout the United States and abroad. The School of Music is committed to a continuing tradition of excellence and to meeting the needs of future generations of students. Ohio University has been a fully accredited member of the National Association of Schools of Music since 1946.

About Ohio University

Ohio University, chartered in 1804, was the first institute of higher learning in the Northwest Territory. Today it has a student body of over 24,000, offers degrees in more than 250 undergraduate programs and grants master’s and doctoral degrees in nearly all of its major academic divisions. Located in Athens, the university provides diverse intellectual stimulation and a wealth of social-cultural activities in a scenic setting. Neighboring cities with active performance calendars include: Charleston, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton, and Pittsburgh.

Questions regarding program content may be addressed to:

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