

Music – Humanities Division
Performing Arts Department
Stage Band for Older Adults– CRN 22011
Mus 801 – Spring 2014
Renee Baker – Jimmie Cannon’s Valley Jazz

A. Course Description:

Stage Band is a performance ensemble specializing in the literature of the stage and jazz band tradition. Students will be provided ensemble experiences necessary for developing and refining improvisation techniques and performance practices appropriate to jazz, rock, blues and swing music traditions. Maximum credit four units. (CSU, UC)

Audition required for enrollment.

B. Course Outline:

This course is designed to increase the skill and performance level of each student while developing aesthetic and cultural values through critical listening.

Students will study, rehearse and perform standard jazz styles including blues, swing, funk, rock, ballads and various Latin genres for selected concert performances and civic events. Additional rehearsals and performances may be scheduled outside of scheduled class time.

Students must provide their own instrument.

C. Supplementary Instructional Materials:

Items listed below are commonly used as supplementary materials and are coordinated with the course objectives:

1. Sheet Music
2. Videos - DVD's, Internet
3. Audio - CD's, Downloads
4. Music Theory – resources
5. Jazz Improvisation - resources
6. Guest conductor/clinicians/artists

D. Course Content:

1. Study and perform various intermediate to advanced level jazz literature
2. Develop musical technique and expressiveness
3. Develop sight-reading technique
4. Develop small and large ensemble playing skills
5. Develop music theory skills
6. Study music history in relation to chosen jazz literature
7. Develop improvisation skills through a variety of chord structures and styles

E. Course Content:

I: Technical Skill of Playing

- A. Articulation skill of jazz tonguing and phrasing
- B. Breath support
- C. Understand and produce a range of rhythmic articulation from legato to staccato in response to the musical notation
- D. Posture
- E. Embouchure
- F. Development of accurate intonation through critical listening skills

II: Musical Skills

- A. Development of sight reading jazz
- B. Jazz improvisation skills
- C. Rhythmic accuracy within the ensemble

III: Ensemble Skills

- A. Group dynamics in rehearsal: how to work with others
- B. Understanding and following the director
- C. Adjustment of individual musical habits to serve the needs of the ensemble
- D. Working as a section and as an ensemble – Lead Players Role

IV: Repertoire of the Jazz Ensemble

- A. Large ensemble music
- B. Variety of jazz styles - traditional, swing, Latin, rock,

blues, ballads & funk

V: Performance Skills

- A. Taking responsibility to perform music to the best of one's ability
- B. Responsibility to self, group, composer, and audience
- C. Performance decorum and protocol – etiquette

VI: Music Reading/Listening

- A. Reading music of various styles with accuracy in interpretation and response to the symbols of the musical notation.
- B. Listening to music from various sources, including concerts, and then analyzing and reflecting on the experience and applying it to the ensemble experience.
- C. Developing the skills of critical listening needed to actively participate within the ensemble.
- D. Respecting the historical and cultural context of the music through outside research and study.

F. Assessment Procedures:

The following is a list of techniques that may be used in assessing student progress:

- 1. Participation and attendance at all rehearsals/concerts – minimum 3 per semester
- 2. Director observations
- 3. Student self-assessment.
- 4. Use of audio/video recordings of performances
- 5. Active study of the historic/cultural component of the music.
- 6. Experiencing Jazz

Performing and experiencing jazz with enthusiasm and confidence comes from participating with a positive attitude and personal commitment to the music, your personal musical growth and your commitment to Jimmie Cannon's Valley Jazz.

G. Disability Statement:

Any student with a documented disability who may need

educational accommodations should notify the instructor or

The Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) office as soon as possible. The DSPS office is located in the Health Sciences Building, room 2117. The telephone number is 355-6312.

H. SLO – Student Learning Outcome – Stage Band MUS 177

At the conclusion of this course, the student will....

1. Exhibit improved technical skill on their instrument.

(ISLO3) *Personal Responsibility*

2. Exhibit improved musical skills including sight-reading, rhythmic accuracy and improvisational skills. (ISLO4) *Information Literacy*

3. Exhibit improved ensemble skills including following directions, group dynamics, section playing, ensemble playing and the role of the lead player. (ISLO1) *Communication Skills*

4. Exhibit improved performance skills including personal, group, composer and audience responsibility that gives the performance the authenticity required. (ISLO1) *Communication Skills* (ISLO5) *Global Awareness*

5. Exhibit knowledge of the repertoire of the jazz ensemble including traditional, blues, swing, ballads, rock, funk and latin. (ISLO2) *Critical Thinking Skills*

6. Exhibit music reading and listening skills including resources for interpretation of notation and style, historical and cultural context through multiple sources. (ISLO4) *Information Literacy* (ISLO5) *Global Awareness*

I. Mission:

Valley Jazz was formed in 1988 after Jimmie Cannon was named the Imperial County Teacher of the Year. With this recognition came the opportunity to fulfill a dream of creating a community jazz ensemble to mentor young musicians while providing performing opportunities for professional musicians and enthusiasts. Twenty years later, Valley Jazz is yearly sponsoring music scholarships and performing two annual

concerts plus numerous community events.

With the continuing support of Imperial Valley College and Central Union High School, Jimmie Cannon's Valley Jazz will continue on its mission of providing performance opportunities to young musicians and keeping Jazz, the only American art form, alive and well in the Imperial Valley.

Renee Baker – Founding Member - Director

Jimmie Cannon's Valley Jazz