

Course name	Big Band	ECTS CREDITS	12
Course coordinator	dr hab. Patryk Piłasiewicz	Credit hours total	240
Faculty of	Instrumental Studies, Historically Informed Performance, Jazz and Pop Music	Course type	lecture
Institute of	Jazz and Pop Music	Mode of study	full-time programme
Major	Jazz and Pop Music	Profile of study	general academic
Specialisation	Composition and Arrangement	Language of instruction	Polish/English
Cycle	First-Cycle Studies	Course group	core / elective

Course placement in the study plan			
Semester 3	60 hours, pass/fail, 3 ECTS	Semester 4	60 hours, final test, 3 ECTS
Semester 5	60 hours, pass/fail, 3 ECTS	Semester 6	60 hours, final test, 3 ECTS

Teacher	dr hab. Patryk Piłasiewicz mgr Jakub Kraszewski
Learning Aims and Objectives	The course aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare Students to work in a large orchestral ensemble • Expand knowledge of big-band repertoire and the performance traditions of different periods. • Refine instrumental and vocal skills required of a big-band musician. • Develop the ability to phrase collectively, maintain consistent intonation, and interpret musical material within the big-band tradition, taking into account appropriate notation methods. • Improve sight-reading skills • Develop the ability to work under the conductor's direction, with particular focus on quickly interpreting interpretative cues • Develop skills for working within individual big-band sections (woodwind, brass, and rhythm) to achieve cohesive performance of a big-band score • Foster the ability to distinguish stylistic features and apply practical interpretative approaches to musical notation • Prepare to present the prepared material publicly (through concerts, recordings, streaming, etc.) • Prepare for studio and recording work, focusing on collaboration with media and adapting to varied acoustic conditions; learn methods for working with sound and video engineers, stage managers, and producers
Prerequisites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health requirements necessary to continue instrumental studies without contraindications • Solid understanding of music theory, including harmony and counterpoint • General understanding of music theory • Successful result in the entry audition exam

COURSE CONTENT
Semester 1

The course covers:

1. Expanding the ensemble repertoire with works beyond the Swing era
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Building unified ensemble expression (developing collective crescendos and decrescendos, understanding and applying the concept of a shared tonal palette, etc.).
4. Improving ensemble intonation within chordal structures (block chord) and cluster harmonies
5. Enhancing sight-reading skills for more challenging material, considering stylistic differences and articulation/dynamic nuances
6. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Semester 2

1. Refining the ability to interpret notation with inclusion of ensemble improvisational and free-jazz structures
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Exploring the tradition of Polish big-band and pop music through performance of scores by Polish composers
4. Developing collective ensemble expression through works of greater complexity and stylistic diversity.
5. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Semester 3

1. Refining the ability to interpret notation using alternative and experimental forms of notation (e.g., graphic scores).
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Working on unified breathing, phrasing, and articulation–dynamic execution across diverse styles, based on advanced literature
4. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Semester 4

1. Consolidating the ability to interpret notation incorporating the latest compositional techniques and experimental forms.
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Developing ensemble proficiency in shared interpretation of dynamics, phrasing (breathing), articulation, and expression.
4. Enriching the repertoire with original works and pieces dedicated to the big band (including premieres))
5. Strengthening collaboration between the big band and composers/arrangers.
6. Introduction to studio work with sound and video directors and producers.
7. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Learning outcome reference code	LEARNING OUTCOMES	Descriptors	
		PQF STAGE 1	PQF STAGE 2
	The Student will know and understand:		

Knowledge	JiME1_W07	music styles and their corresponding performance traditions,		
	JiME1_W02	representative repertoire of their chosen field of study		
Student will be able to:				
Skills	JiME1_U06	read music notation as well as spelling typical of jazz music	P6S_UK P6S_UO	P6U_U
	JiME1_U10	shape and create music as well as to improvise in a way that deviates from the written notation in a certain style,		
	JiME1_U11	utilise technical proficiency to deliver a professional musical performance and identify technical challenges specific to each instrument (such as tonality, precision etc.)		
	JiME1_U18	cooperate with other musicians in a variety of ensembles or on joint tasks and projects, including multidisciplinary projects		
Student will be able to:				
Competencies	JiME1_K03	organise own work as well as to lead joint tasks or projects	P6S_KK P6S_KO P6S_KR	P6U_K
	JiME1_K07	cooperate on and integrate into team projects as well as organisational and artistic tasks related to a variety of cultural events		
	JiME1_K09	present own artistic activities purposefully and in a professional manner apprehensible		
	JiME1_K11	adapt to new, changeable environment which may occur during the professional or artistic projects		

TEACHING METHODS

Addressing artistic challenges, individual work, group work and collaborative exercises, problem-solving sessions, online learning, any other assessment methods applied by the course instructor

LEARNING OUTCOME VERIFICATION METHODS

Final requirements – successfully completed year, grading criteria	Learning outcome reference code
performance audition	JiME1_U06 JiME1_U10 JiME1_11 JiME1_18 JiME1_K07 JiME1_K09 JiME1_K11

ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA

Course Completion Requirements	Attendance and active participation in classes, timely submission of all assignments and projects
Exam Requirements	Earn the pass credit, Master the repertoire assigned for the respective semester as specified in the course programme

STUDENT WORKLOAD		Credit hours total	ECTS CREDITS
Contact hours with the instructor		240	12
Hours of independent student work		80	

Recommended reading

- Arrangements by Wojciech Olszewski, compositions by Jerzy Milian and Krzysztof Komeda.
- Compositions and arrangements by big bands of Duke Ellingtona, Counta Basie, Charles Mingus, Gil Evans, Gerry Mulligan, Marai Schneider, Joe Zawinul and other.
- Compositions and arrangements by the staff and students of Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań

Supplementary reading

- Compositions and arrangements by the staff and students of Ignacy Jan Paderewski Academy of Music in Poznań

On-line libraries and resources

- <https://www.loc.gov/collections/gerry-mulligan/>