

IGNACY JAN PADEREWSKI ACADEMY OF MUSIC IN POZNAŃ

Course name	Big Band	ECTS CREDITS	9
Course coordinator	dr hab. Patryk Piłsiewicz	Credit hours total	180
Faculty of	Instrumental Studies, Historically Informed Performance, Jazz and Pop Music	Course type	applied course
Institute of	Institute of Jazz and Pop Music	Mode of study	full-time programme
Major	Jazz and Pop Music	Profile of study	general academic
Specialisation	Jazz Piano	Language of instruction	Polish/English
Cycle	Second-Cycle Studies	Course group	core / elective

Course placement in the study plan

Semester 1	60 hrs, P/F, 3 ECTS	Semester 2	60 hrs, G, 3 ECTS
Semester 3	60 hrs, P/F, 3 ECTS	Semester 4	

Teacher	dr Patryk Piłsiewicz; mgr Jakub Kraszewski
Learning Aims and Objectives	<p>The course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare to work in a large orchestral ensemble • Consolidate and expand knowledge of big-band repertoire and the performance traditions of different periods. • Refine instrumental and vocal skills required of a big-band musician. • Further 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 • Enhance 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; learn to distinguish stylistic features and apply appropriate interpretative approaches to musical notation, including contemporary compositional techniques. • 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. Basic methods of interpreting big-band notation (structure of orchestral parts, functional and chordal notation, abbreviations and simplifications, articulation and dynamic markings).
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Working on unified breathing, phrasing, and articulation–dynamic execution
4. Working on achieving consistent intonation
5. Discussion and implementation of various approaches to working within the rhythm section

Semester 2

1. Refining the ability to interpret notation with inclusion of improvisational elements.
2. Rehearsals with individual sections and the full ensemble (tutti).
3. Developing understanding and shared interpretation of swing, based on selected works from the era.
4. Improving ensemble intonation within melodic structures performed in unison.
5. Opportunities to prepare and participate in semester or annual concert(s).

Semester 3

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).

	Learning outcome reference code	LEARNING OUTCOMES	Descriptors	
			PQF STAGE 2	PQF STAGE 1
		The Student will know and understand:		
Knowledge	JiME2_W02	knows and comprehends representative repertoire of their chosen field of study	P7S_WG	P7U_W
	JiME2_W07	music styles and their corresponding performance traditions,		
		The Student will be able to:		
Skills	JiME2_U06	read music notation as well as spelling typical of jazz music	P7S_UK	P7U_U
	JiME2_U10	shape and create music as well as to improvise in a way that deviates from the written notation in a certain style,		
	JiME2_U11	utilise technical proficiency to deliver a professional musical performance and identify technical challenges specific to each instrument (such as tonality, precision etc.)		
	JiME2_U18	cooperate with other musicians in a variety of ensembles or on joint tasks and projects, including multidisciplinary projects		
Competence	JiME2_K03	organise own work as well as to lead joint tasks or projects	P7SK_K	P7U_K
	JiME2_K07	cooperate on and integrate into team projects as well as organisational and artistic tasks related to a variety of cultural events	P7SK_O	
	JiME2_K09	present own artistic activities purposefully and in a professional manner		
	JiME2_K11	adapt to new, changeable environment which may occur during the professional or artistic projects	P7SK_R	

TEACHING METHODS

Lecture
 Reading comprehension and discussion
 Addressing artistic challenges
 Individual work
 Group work
 Problem-solving sessions
 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

Any other assessment methods applied by the course instructor	
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ASSESSMENT METHODS AND CRITERIA

Course Completion Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and actively participate in classes • Participate actively in rehearsals and preparations for concerts and artistic projects • Master the repertoire assigned for the respective semester as specified in the course programme
Exam Requirements	<p>Students must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a course credit (pass) • Deliver a preprepared project.

STUDENT WORKLOAD	Credit hours total	ECTS CREDITS
Contact hours with the instructor	180	9
Hours of independent student work	60	

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

On-line resources (optional)

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