

JAZZ PROGRAMME

MANLY SELECTIVE CAMPUS

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The Jazz Programme in Principle

Improvisation requires knowledge of traditional and current practice, as well as approaches to free form. It unifies elements of melody, harmony, rhythm and timbre in an expression 'of the moment'. Improvisation is composition in real time.

Goal

The Jazz Programme aims to establish a creative environment whereby students may aspire towards improvisation excellence.

Co-operation in ensembles is essential to create an environment that allows individual development to evolve (ie. expressing *oneself* in one's *own* way). This expression is the essence of musical expression, and evolves over many years.

Strategy

The envisaged Jazz Programme broadens the current (2006) Jazz Programme by establishing:

- A formal 3-tier structure so that there is a progression of skills within the ensembles
- Flexibility in the development of skills and ensembles
- An avenue to integrate improvisation within the school community, including non-band students.

This document outlines the desired Jazz Programme. It is anticipated that there will be a transition period for the next 3-4 years, where some degree of flexibility may need to be exercised.

Objectives

Key objectives of the Jazz Programme are:

- Provide an environment that nurtures the development of improvisation and musical expression within the Band Programme
- Complement the wider MSC Band Programme, namely:
 - The Concert Band Programme and its more formal component of performance and solos
 - The Stage Band Programme and its cross over between brass performance and improvisation.
- Develop the students' theoretical basis of improvisation, arranging and composition
- Develop their performance capability, with progression within the Jazz Programme
- Provide a talent pool for improving the solos performed and the musicianship within the Concert and Stage Band Programmes
- Provide an integration avenue for "splitter" groups that may be formed independently by the students and perform outside the formal Jazz Programme.

The Programme in Practice

Policy and Governance

The Jazz Programme is similar to the Concert and Stage Band Programmes in that it reports to the MSC Band Committee for guidance and authorisation of those aspects that fall outside the day-to-day running of the Jazz Programme.

Eg. funding, employment of teaching staff, modifying Programme structure, issues with students memberships.

Structure & Membership

The Jazz Programme has a 3-tier structure to provide a progression of improvisation skills and experience for the students. Ideally the ensembles have a balance of instruments, reflecting those in the wider Band Programme. However in practice other instruments may be included; and the number of ensembles may vary.

The JazzShop teaches the fundamentals of improvisation, and encourages students to experiment with their performance. The I-Jazz and S-Jazz performance ensembles continue to develop the fundamentals of improvisation in more advanced ways. Students are introduced to more complex scales/modes and learn how to play them within harmonic structures and as the basis of composition and arrangements.

JazzShop

The JazzShop accommodates all students who would like to learn the fundamentals of improvisation. Its aim is to give students a thorough grounding in the theory and practice of improvisation. In practice it is a series of workshops in which the students are expected to bring their instruments and build improvisations based on the theory that's being taught each week. Performance within the rehearsal, as with all ensembles, is a focus, but not as intense as it is with the other Jazz ensembles.

As this larger group will have students from all years, it may be appropriate to pair off younger and older students to facilitate the learning experience. Various possibilities may be tried depending on the particular make-up of this group from year to year. Particular attention is given to the year 7 students, who may require more nurturing and encouragement.

Memorizing the basic scales and chords is essential (akin to memorising the alphabet) as it focuses the player's attention on sound and style. Written material is used where appropriate, especially when it helps visualise concepts (eg. circle of 5ths, common chord progressions).

Outcomes

In this workshop setting the students would achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Recognizing chord symbols and their function
- Understanding scales and their relationship to chords
- Applying correct scales to chords
- Understanding and performing common chord progressions and forms, eg. The blues, simple jazz standards
- Developing a rhythmical and melodic approach to improvising
- Understanding and applying different approaches to improvising (there are many different methods used to approach improvising.)
- Structuring a solo
- Performing with Jazz musicality
- Rhythm section development - Drummers, Piano players, Bass players

- Approaching many different styles of jazz
- Listening and communication in a small ensemble.
- Exploring composing and arranging

Membership and Commitment

- Open to all MSC students, including those not enrolled in any of the MSC Bands. It is anticipated that widening the membership may introduce other students to the Band Programme. Particularly those who may be performing in "splinter" groups, which although not part of the Band Programme, do contribute to the musical community of the school.
- The JazzShop forms the basic building blocks for the Jazz Programme, and is considered mandatory unless the Director assesses as student's skills already advanced to a level where they can join an ensemble.
- Membership is a commitment to a full semester. Students may not attend on an ad-hoc basis. One year's commitment is recommended.
- Students may join during the semester, if assessed by the Director as appropriate.
- The workshop will be for 1-1.5 hours, once a week.
- It is anticipated that the timing may be 2:30pm each Wednesday, to accommodate as many years as possible.

Fees

Those students not in the Band Programme, will pay a higher fee which will be set by the Band Committee.

I-Jazz Performance Ensemble(s)

I-Jazz has a particular vigour and sparkle in its make-up. As well as playing together tightly there should be a kind of 'looseness' (reminiscent of early New Orleans marching bands), which will lead towards a free jazz concept where listening to each other is even more crucial.

This ensemble(s) is a progression from the JazzShop and performs regularly. Students should be showing a good understanding of all of the work performed in the workshop and should also form a balanced ensemble. Composition and arranging are encouraged.

An optimum ensemble comprises 8 members, being a rhythm section (Piano, Bass, Drums, Guitar) and 4 front line (Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, etc). This line-up may be varied by the Director to reflect the actual number of students and instruments enrolled in the Programme.

Outcomes

- Learning essential skills to run a performance
- Demonstrating intermediate improvising skills
- Learning skills to arrange music to suit the ensemble members
- Expanding understanding of chords and chord progressions with a view to improvising and arranging
- Starting to experiment with arranging with the different colours/ combinations of instruments
- Performing a wide range of repertoire
- Developing a character for the ensemble
- Performing regularly including:
 - Entering jazz festivals
 - Performing at school events eg. assemblies, open days etc.
 - "Street" and community performances eg. Manly Ferry, retirement villages
 - Performing at the school's dinner dance

Membership and Commitment

- Membership is open to only MSC Band Programme students (ie. enrolled in the Concert Band Programme). The intent is that these players will contribute to the overall musicianship of the Concert Band Programme, and if enrolled, also the Stage Band Programme.

- By the start of each school year the Director will audition and/or assess each band member's skills to determine which ensemble is appropriate.
- Students may join at any time during the year, if assessed by the Director as appropriate
- There may be more than one I-Jazz ensemble if there is sufficient interest.
- Membership is a commitment to a full year. Students may not attend on an ad-hoc basis.
- The rehearsal will be for 1-1.5 hours, once a week.
- Presently this ensemble rehearses Wednesday mornings at 8am, however this vary year on year.

Fees

Fees will be set by the Band Committee.

S-Jazz Performance Ensemble(s)

S-Jazz provides a high level of improvisation and performance. There is a close interaction between members of the ensemble whereby they bounce off each other's ideas and develop sections in a creative way. Such things can be induced through instruction but they advance more quickly when there is a natural disposition in that way of listening.

This ensemble aims to be one of the best jazz ensembles in the public school system and be a featured ensemble in the program. They perform on a regular basis and all members have a very strong understanding of running performances, arranging music, composing for their ensemble and improvising in any style.

An optimum ensemble comprises 8 members, being a rhythm section (Piano, Bass, Drums, Guitar) and 4 front line (Sax, Trumpet, Trombone, etc). This line-up may be varied by the Director to reflect the actual number of students and instruments enrolled in the Programme.

Outcomes

- Students showing ability to run a performance at a high level
- Students arranging music to suit the ensemble
- Performing an interesting program of music to suit any function or concert
- Rehearsing and performing a wide range of music
- Developing a character for the ensemble (this will change from year to year depending on changing membership.)
- Performing regularly including:
 - Performing for school, collegiate and community functions
 - Performing at Manly Jazz festival and other festivals around Sydney/ NSW
 - Entering local jazz competitions
 - Performing at the school's dinner dance

Membership and Commitment

- Membership is open to only MSC Band Programme students (ie. enrolled in the Concert Band Programme). The intent is that these players will contribute to the overall musicianship of the Concert Band Programme, and if enrolled, also the Stage Band Programme.
- By the start of each school year the Director will audition and/or assess each band member's skills to determine which ensemble is appropriate.
- Students may join at any time during the year, if assessed by the Director as appropriate.
- There may be more than one S-Jazz ensemble if there is sufficient interest.
- Membership is a commitment to a full year. Students may not attend on an ad-hoc basis.
- The rehearsal will be for 1-1.5 hours, once a week.
- Presently this ensemble rehearses Monday afternoons, however this may vary year on year.

Fees

Fees will be set by the Band Committee.

Staffing

The Jazz Programme is staffed by:

Jazz Programme Director

This position provides the overall Programme direction and administration for the Jazz Programme. It reports to the MSC Band Committee with formal reports and requests on behalf of the staff employed and students within the Jazz Programme.

JazzShop Tutor

This position is responsible for all the aspects of the JazzShop. eg. syllabus, content and membership. While the Tutor may invite other people to deliver particular aspects or assist with timetabling, they deliver the majority of the material.

Jazz Ensemble Tutors

This position is responsible for all aspects of the ensemble assigned to them. eg. it's membership, it's development, community performances.