

University of Kentucky Percussion Studies

Jazz Vibraphone Syllabus; MUP 118-718

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- Objectives:**
- I. to cultivate techniques specific to jazz vibes
 - II. to develop facility in a variety of tempos and jazz styles
 - III. to develop improvisation and comping skills
 - IV. to have the fundamental skills and confidence to perform in a solo or combo setting
 - V. to listen and analyze tunes featuring historically significant jazz vibists

Materials (to be selected from):

Voicing and Comping for Jazz Vibes, by Thomas Davis

Major and Minor, v. 24, by Jamey Aebersold

15 Easy Jazz, Blues, and Funk Etudes, by Bob Mintzer

Maiden Voyage, v. 54, by Jamey Aebersold

Afro-Cuban Big Band Play-Along, by Dave Samuels

various articles and transcriptions from *Percussive Notes*

This curriculum is primarily designed to introduce the proficient mallet player to the jazz idiom. The material emphasizes mallet issues specific to the jazz player such as: **1)** scales and modes that are commonly found in jazz. **2)** Chord voicings and “comping” in a jazz style **3)** Improvisation in a jazz style. The student is strongly encouraged to participate in the jazz ensembles offered at UK as there is no substitute for playing with other musicians!

The most important thing you can do to improve your jazz style is simply to listen to and imitate the masters. Students are encouraged to seek out recordings of the great vibists and listen analytically on a daily basis (*see list of suggested listening*). Vibists you should know include: Lionel Hampton, Red Norvo, Milt Jackson, Terry Gibbs, Victor Feldman, Cal Tjader, Bobby Hutcherson, Gary Burton, Mike Mainieri, Dave Samuels, Steve Nelson, and Joe Locke. In addition, students will arrange and perform a jazz standard for solo vibes. This arrangement should consist of: an introduction, the “head” or melody of the tune, one chorus of solo on the changes, the “head” again, and finally a coda or outro.

How to Practice Scales

1. Play all scales in the following order without stopping:

major/mixolydian/dorian/blues

or

locrian, diminished, diminished whole-tone

2. Play all scales 2 octaves, ascending and descending, swing 8's to the 9th at $\text{♩}=60$ with metronome on 2 & 4.

How to Practice Voicings

1. Play all voicings in a "rootless" style, substituting the appropriate chord tones for extensions (*see Davis book page 10-11*)
2. Play all voicings with both the 3rd and the 7th as the bottom note
3. Play all voicings in a(n) 1) open, 2) closed, 3) combination style, at $\text{♩}=50$ with the metronome on 2 & 4 (*see Davis book pg. 8-9*)

Learning a Tune on Vibes

(use this procedure for all the Aebersold Play-a-longs)

1. Play the melody
2. Play the melody with chord roots
3. Arpeggiate to the 9th over the form (*observing the harmonic rhythm*)
4. Play the scales to the 9th over the form (*observing the harmonic rhythm*)
5. Play the melody with guide tones in the left hand (*pedal with the melody, using other dampening techniques where appropriate*)
6. Learn a set voicing pattern for 1 chorus and experiment with different mallet permutations (*see Davis book pg. 15-16 for examples*)
7. Play along with the CD as if you were in a combo (*head/solo/head*)

Suggested Recordings for Listening

1. Benny Goodman, Together Again!, RCA (*Lionel Hampton*)
2. Lionel Hampton, Just One of those Things, Polygram Records
3. Lionel Hampton, Hamp and Getz, Polygram Records
4. Red Norvo, The Red Norvo Trios, Prestige
5. Red Norvo, The Red Norvo Trio, Ojc
6. Modern Jazz Quartet, Django, Prestige (*Milt Jackson*)
7. Miles Davis, Bag's Groove, Prestige (*Milt Jackson*)
8. Milt Jackson, Bebop, Atlantic
9. Miles Davis, Miles Davis and Milt Jackson Quintet/Sextet, Ojc
10. Terry Gibbs, Dream Band, v.1-6, Contemporary Records
11. Victor Feldman, The Arrival of Victor Feldman, Ojc
12. Bobby Hutcherson and McCoy Tyner, Manhattan Moods, Blue Note Records
13. Eric Dolphy, Out to Lunch, Blue Note Records (*Bobby Hutcherson*)
14. Jackie Maclean, One Step Beyond, (*Bobby Hutcherson*)
15. Andrew Hill, Judgment!, Blue Note Records (*Bobby Hutcherson*)
16. Cal Tjader, Soul Sauce, Polygram Records
17. Gary Burton, Alone At Last, Gotham Distribution
18. Gary Burton/Chick Corea, Chick Corea and Gary Burton in Concert (Zurich, Oct. 28, 1979), ECM Records
19. Stan Getz, Getz Au Go Go, Polygram Records (*Gary Burton*)
20. Jay Leonhart, Four Duke, Delta (*Gary Burton*)
21. Mike Mainieri, An American Diary, NYC
22. Steps Ahead, Smokin' in the Pit, NYC (*Mike Mainieri*)
23. Dave Samuels, 10 Degrees North, MCA
24. Caribbean Jazz Project, Here and Now: Live In Concert, Concord Records (*Dave Samuels*)
25. Jeff Hamilton, Dynavibes, Mons (*Frits Landesbergen*)
26. Ted Pilzecker, Standing Alone, Equilibrium Records
27. Dave Holland Group, Prime Directive, ECM Records (*Steve Nelson*)
28. Joe Locke, 4 Walls of Freedom, Sirocco Jazz Limited
29. Stefon Harris, A Cloud of Red Dust, Blue Note Records
30. Dick Sisto, American Love Song, Jazzen Records