

Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL BASS

General Information:

- The stated proficiencies below apply to all students taking lessons in the particular discipline.
- Level of difficulty for specific repertoire will be adjusted based upon the student's degree program.
- These proficiencies are the minimums for a passing grade in the discipline.
- Any student wishing to take 300-level applied lessons must successfully pass an upper division jury demonstrating the proficiencies as articulated below.

Proficiencies for a 1-credit lesson

Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned composition and demonstrate improvement with sight reading.

Freshman Level

- One Octave Scales at 120BPM
- Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale
- One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM
- Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7
- Jazz Songs as assigned
- Transposition: *Play Blues in Bb, F, Eb and C*
- Transcription: *One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 bars*

Sophomore Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120BPM, *Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian*
- Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
- Transcription: *One solo of at least 16 Bars*

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM *Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor*
- Standards as assigned
- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Senior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120BPM *Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone*
- Standards as assigned
- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Each semester the student will be required to memorize and improvise on assigned compositions, transcribe at least one solo from a recording; and demonstrate improvement with sight reading

Freshman Level

- One Octave Scales at 120 BPM
- *Major Scale, Dorian Scale, Mixolydian Scale, Chromatic Scale (Open E for 1 ½ Octaves) Major and Minor Pentatonic, Blues Scale, Phrygian, Lydian, Aeolian, Locrian*

- One Octave Arpeggios at 120BPM, *Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7, Half Diminished 7, Diminished 7*
- Jazz Songs as assigned
- Transposition: *Play Blues in all 12 Keys at 120BPM*
- Transcription: *One Bass line Transcription of at least 24 Bars*

Sophomore Level

- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, *Chromatic Scale (Open E for 2 ½ octaves), Harmonic Minor, Melodic Minor, Half Whole Diminished Scale, Whole Tone*
- Three Octave chromatic scale
- Two Octave Arpeggios at 120BMP, *Major 7, Dominant 7, Minor 7*
- Jazz Songs on Rhythm Changes Form
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: *Play Rhythm Changes in all 12 Keys 120BPM*
- Transcription: *One Solo of at least 32 Bars*

Upper Division Jury (end of 2nd semester sophomore lessons)

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years.

Junior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 1209BPM, *Modes of Melodic Minor focusing on 4th mode*
- Standards as assigned
- Transposition: *It Could Happen to You in all 12 keys 120 BPM, Have You Met Mrs. Jones in all 12 keys 120 BPM*
- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Senior Level

- Two Octave Scales at 120 BPM, *Modes of Harmonic Minor focusing 5th mode*
- Standards Pick 3
- Transposition: *All the Things You Are in all 12 Keys 120BPM*

- Transcription: *One Bass Line of at least 32 Bars*
- Standards as assigned
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)