

Towson University – Department of Music

Proficiency Levels for Applied Lessons

Discipline: JAZZ/COMMERCIAL DRUM SET

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

Freshman Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Philly Joe Jones
- Groove: Shuffle, Medium swing
- Latin: Bossa-1 & Cascara-1
- Improvisation: 12 Bar Blues, trades within form
- Technique/books: Drumset rudiments; Syncopation coordination; Ensemble hits sheet; Alan Dawson book introduction

Sophomore Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Max Roach/Art Blakey
- Grooves: Ballad w/ brushes
- Latin: Partido Alto & Mambo

- Improvisation: Rhythm changes trade over form
- Technique/books: Alan Dawson 4 way coordination exercises, Intermediate Syncopation exercises, New Breed systems 1-8

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

- Proficiency in all material assigned in the first two years

Junior Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Elvin Jones/ Roy Haynes
- Grooves: Up tempo swing
- Latin: Baiao & Mozambique, Baiao-2
- Improvisation: 3/4, 23 bar standards
- Technique/books: Intermediate Alan Dawson exercises, Advanced Syncopation exercises, New Breed systems 9-16, John Riley begin exercises and eighth note exercises
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Senior Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Tony Williams/Jack DeJohnette
- Grooves: Samba
- Improvisation: Odd meter (five & seven)
- Technique/books: Advanced Alan Dawson exercises, New Breed systems 17-30, John Riley triplet exercises & solo development phrases
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Proficiencies for a 2-credit lesson

Freshman Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Philly Joe Jones
- Groove: Shuffle, Medium swing, Two Beat, Slow swing
- Latin: Bossa-1 & Cascara-1, Bossa-2 & Cascara-2

- Improvisation: 12 Bar Blues, trades within form
- Technique/books: Drumset rudiments; Syncopation coordination exercises; Ensemble hits sheets; Alan Dawson book introduction

Sophomore Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Max Roach/Art Blakey
- Grooves: Ballad w/ brushes, more swing tempos $\frac{3}{4}$ swing and straight eighth
- Latin: Partido Alto & Mambo Partido Alto-2 & Mambo-2
- Improvisation: Rhythm changes trade over form
- Technique/books: Alan Dawson 4 way coordination exercises, Intermediate Syncopation exercises, New Breed systems 1-8, Dawson's UDJ: Scales

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

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

Junior Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Elvin Jones/Roy Haynes
- Grooves: Up tempo swing, Second line
- Latin: Baiao & Mozambique, Baiao-2 & Songo
- Improvisation: $\frac{3}{4}$, 32 bar standards
- Technique/books: Intermediate Alan Dawson exercises, Advanced Syncopation exercises, New Breed Systems 9-16, Dawson's Rudiment Ritual memorize half, John Riley begin exercises and eighth note exercises
- Junior recital (*required based upon degree program*)

Senior Level

- Perform assigned solos by memory from repertoire list – Tony Williams/Jack DeJohnette
- Grooves: Samba & 12/8
- Improvisation: Odd meter (five & seven)
- Technique/books: Advanced Alan Dawson exercises, New Breed systems 17-30, Dawson's Rudiment Ritual memorize complete, John Riley triplet exercises & solo development phrases
- Senior Recital (*required based upon degree program*)