

STRATFORD CENTRAL SECONDARY SCHOOL

AMH3M / AMH4M - JAZZ BAND

Course Content

Content

This is a half-credit performance class for senior-level music students. You must be enrolled in either AMI20, AMI3M, or AMI4M and you must also be a member of the Symphonic Band or Concert Band or have special permission to take this course. It will run on Monday mornings from 7:30am-8:30am, with some additional rehearsals during the lunch period, and will include occasional public performances.

The course content will consist of the study of stage band music and the development of the technique required for stage band performance, including sight-reading and improvisation. The course will include listening, performing and creative activities. Special attention will be given to the Blues scale, which is the basis of most jazz.

Evaluation

There are two elements that are important in a performance class: regular attendance and the ability to play the music. Therefore, the mark will be based on attendance, punctuality, and occasional playing tests according to the following ratio:

Attendance and Punctuality - 30%

Playing Tests - 70%

Attendance will be evaluated in the following manner: one mark will be deducted for being late for a rehearsal or concert without a satisfactory excuse; two marks will be deducted for missing a rehearsal without a satisfactory excuse.

If you are absent from a rehearsal or concert, and have a reasonable excuse, then the absence will not be counted against you. Please bring a note from home to verify the reason that you were absent. Every late or absence will count for one mark out of the total allotted for that category.

Band members are encouraged to be proactive with regards to rehearsal and performance dates and times. All rehearsals and concerts will be posted in the Music Room, and usually on the bulletin board at the end of the hall as well. Make it a habit to check these notices regularly so that you are aware of what is happening. Be professional in your attitude towards band. Professionals are punctual, do not miss rehearsals, and come to rehearsals prepared to play their music. To say that you didn't know there was a rehearsal is to admit that you didn't check the schedule.

If you miss a performance without having a satisfactory excuse, you may be removed from the ensemble. This may seem harsh, but it is a very serious offense to not show up.

I would like you to bring a professional, as well as an amateur, approach to the Jazz Band. Professionals come prepared to work, they learn their music before the rehearsal begins, they are prompt, and do not miss rehearsals unless they speak to the director in advance. Amateurs bring a sense of excitement and enthusiasm to a rehearsal. Let's try to combine both our love of music with a professional attitude.

Playing tests will occur regularly throughout the year. They will take place during lunch, spare periods, or after school, and will be based on blues scales, improvisation, and segments of repertoire that have been rehearsed in band. Personnel for public performances may be chosen as a result of these tests.

Performance Course Evaluation & Report Card Comments

Attendance - each rehearsal is worth two marks, one deducted for being late

Works Independently - working hard, not talking, during rehearsals, concerts

Teamwork - being on time, regular in attendance, helps to set up equipment

Organization - knows rehearsal schedule, changes to schedule, being on top of things

Work Habits - practises regularly / maintains a practice log

Initiative - talks to Mr. Gilbert in advance if a rehearsal is to be missed, or immediately after returning to school

Performances

The Jazz Band typically performs several times during the year. In the past, these performances have included: school assemblies; the SCSS Music Department Christmas Concert; elementary school tours; *Soup's on*, sponsored by the Alzheimer Society; Winterfest's *Big Band Swing Dance*; the Kiwanis Music Festival; International Music Festivals; and Music Night. A schedule for this year's concerts will be distributed as soon as dates are confirmed.

Uniform

The uniform for Jazz Band consists of the black Music Department golf shirt with music crest; black dress pants, black shoes and socks.

