

# PCM Certificate Program

## Jazz Track: Curriculum

6/1/2022



**[To participate, students must be able to read music notation.]**

The Portland Conservatory Music Certificate Program is a competitive and professionally oriented program dedicated to the musical and personal growth of musicians of all ages. There are two certificate levels, Standard and Advanced, that offer a diverse mix of classroom, ensemble, performance, and lecture over the course of 4-6 semesters.

Upon completion of the program, students will receive a certificate and transcript detailing the courses, ensembles, and lessons that they completed while at the Portland Conservatory of Music.

REQUIREMENT	SEMESTER	STANDARD CERT.	ADVANCED CERT.
Jazz History I	Fall	●	●
Jazz History II	Spring	●	●
Music History Elective*	Fall & Spring	●	●●
Jazz Theory I	Fall	●	●
Jazz Theory II	Spring	●	●
Music Theory Elective	Fall & Spring	●	●●
Private Lessons**	Fall & Spring	4 Semesters	6 Semesters
Large Ensemble***	Fall & Spring	1 Semester	2 Semesters
Basic Piano Proficiency Lessons****	Fall & Spring	1 Semester	1 Semester
Final Jury		●	●
Final Public Recital			●

\* Music Electives include classes such as: Post Tonal Theory, History of Modern Jazz, Contemporary Jazz of Today, The life of Bach, Romanticism in Music, History of Opera, XXI Century Music, Intro to Western Music History, Classical Music Theory, etc

\*\* Lessons are required to be taken with PCM faculty, a minimum of 4 lessons per semester. If you are enrolled in lessons outside of PCM, you may apply for a waiver to this requirement.

\*\*\* Examples include PCM ensembles such as choir, middle Eastern ensemble, jazz ensemble, or approved outside ensembles such as youth symphony or school orchestra/band.

\*\*\*\*Or satisfactory piano proficiency exam

## Jazz Music Theory

This course covers jazz music theory from basic fundamentals to complex harmonic and rhythmic structures. We start with an introduction to principles used to understand jazz composition and the music vocabulary used by jazz musicians for compositional and improvisational development. These initial concepts are then explored further using notated and recorded sources delving into concepts of II V I progressions, modal interchange, diminished chords and scales, and compound chords. Students listen to and analyze jazz standards from a variety of perspectives as improvisers, accompanists, and composers.

Jazz Music Theory I – offered in the fall semester

Jazz Music Theory II – offered in the spring semester

Music Theory Electives – offered in the fall and spring semester

Each class involves a lecture, discussion about the class topic, in-class exercises, and written assignments.

## Jazz Music History

This course is dedicated to exploring the history of jazz from 1900 New Orleans to the present day. Jazz history is critical in giving students inspirational exposure to many recordings of jazz and related music they have not heard. Although listening to music is the primary activity in this course, reading assignments and in-class performances are both incorporated.

The course is divided into two semesters:

Jazz History I – offered in the fall semester

Jazz History II – offered in the spring semester

Music History Elective – offered in the fall and spring semesters

Each class involves a lecture, listening examples, discussion about the class topics, and listening assignments.

## Jazz Ear Training

This course is designed to give beginning and intermediate jazz students ear training, using vocabulary from the many different eras in jazz history. Students learn to identify basic intervals, chord sounds, and rhythms that are crucial building blocks in basic jazz aural skills. The class uses recorded source material, and there will be some simple transcription exercises. This class ensures that students are familiar not only with theoretical terminology but are able to aurally internalize and sing jazz theory concepts.

Students will learn to utilize all these skills to improve their performance skills for lessons and ensembles.

## Jazz Ensembles

This improvisation class is for players with some prior experience in a jazz band or jazz combo who want to learn to improvise in both traditional and non-traditional styles.

The class focuses on improvising on standard and contemporary jazz material.

An intro to jazz composition, free jazz improv, and group improv along with an end-of-session performance is planned.

Masterclasses with local musicians are incorporated.

## Additional Advanced Electives

Additional advanced electives are offered on a rotating basis, once students have finished the regular curriculum.

Some of the classes offered are:

- Post-tonal Theory
- History of Modern Jazz
- Music of J. S. Bach
- Contemporary Jazz of Today
- Classical Music History I
- Classical Music History II
- Classical Music Theory I
- Classical Music Theory II
- Middle Eastern Ensemble