

PERFORMANCE JAZZ MAJOR (B.MUS.) (126 CREDITS)

Offered by: Performance (Schulich School of Music)

Degree: Bachelor of Music

Program credit weight: 126

Program Description

The Bachelor of Music; Major in Performance Jazz provides comprehensive training for jazz musicians. The curriculum includes jazz theory and harmony, keyboard, history, performance practice, improvisation, composition, and arranging. Throughout the program, students receive individual instruction and participate in jazz orchestras, ensembles, and combos.

Special Requirements

1. Students majoring in Jazz Performance must achieve a minimum grade of B- in all Jazz courses and Practical Instruction/Exams, including Jazz Combo and Ensembles.
2. Students are permitted to study with the same teacher for the assigned practical instruction for a maximum of two consecutive years.

Note: For information about Fall 2025 and Winter 2026 course offerings, please check back on May 8, 2025. Until then, the "Terms offered" field will appear blank for most courses while the class schedule is being finalized.

Program Prerequisites - Freshman Program (34 credits)

34 credits selected as described below, in consultation with the Program Adviser:

22 credits of Prerequisite Courses

2 credits of MUEN 570 Jazz Combo.

4 credits of Large Ensemble

6 credits of Non-Music Electives

Prerequisite Courses

22 credits, all of the courses below:

Note: Students who can demonstrate through auditions, placement tests, or equivalencies that they have mastered the material in any of the courses listed below, will be exempt from them and may proceed to more advanced courses.

Incoming jazz guitarists and pianists are automatically exempt from MUJZ 170 Jazz Keyboard Proficiency 1. and MUJZ 171 Jazz Keyboard Proficiency 2..

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUIN 180	BMus Practical Lessons 1.	3
MUIN 181	BMus Practical Lessons 2.	3

MUJZ 160	Jazz Materials 1.	3
MUJZ 161	Jazz Materials 2.	3
MUJZ 170	Jazz Keyboard Proficiency 1.	1
MUJZ 171	Jazz Keyboard Proficiency 2.	1
MUJZ 187	Jazz History Survey.	3
MUPD 135	Music as a Profession 1.	1
MUSP 123	Jazz Ear Training 1.	2
MUSP 124	Jazz Ear Training 2.	2

Required Courses (53 credits)

Performance

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Course	Title	Credits
MUIN 280	BMus Practical Lessons 3.	2.5
MUIN 281	BMus Practical Lessons 4.	2.5
MUIN 282	BMus Performance Examination 1.	1
MUIN 380	BMus Practical Lessons 5.	2.5
MUIN 381	BMus Practical Lessons 6.	2.5
MUIN 382	BMus Performance Examination 2.	1
MUIN 480	BMus Practical Lessons 7.	2
MUIN 481	BMus Practical Lessons 8.	2
MUIN 482	BMus Performance Examination 3.	2

Small Ensemble

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 570	Jazz Combo. ¹	1

¹ This course is taken in four semesters for 4 credits.

Jazz Improvisation

Instrumental Majors

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUJZ 223	Jazz Improvisation/Musicianship 1.	3
MUJZ 224	Jazz Improvisation/Musicianship 2.	3
MUJZ 423	Jazz Improvisation/Musicianship 3.	3
MUJZ 424	Jazz Improvisation/Musicianship 4.	3

OR

Vocal Majors

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUJZ 225	Jazz Vocal Improvisation 1.	3
MUJZ 226	Jazz Vocal Improvisation 2.	3
MUJZ 325	Jazz Vocal Improvisation 3.	3
MUJZ 326	Jazz Vocal Improvisation 4.	3

Jazz Theory

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Course	Title	Credits
MUJZ 260	Jazz Arranging 1.	3
MUJZ 261	Jazz Arranging 2.	3
MUJZ 340	Jazz Composition 1.	3
MUJZ 341	Jazz Composition 2.	3

History/Literature/Performance Practice

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUHL 286	Critical Thinking About Music.	3
MUJZ 493	Jazz Performance Practice.	3

Professional Development

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUPD 235	Music as a Profession 2.	1

Complementary Courses (14-18 credits)

Performance

Small Ensemble

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 570	Jazz Combo. ¹	1

¹ Taken in two semesters for 2 credits.

OR

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 574	Afro-Cuban/Brazilian Jazz Combo. ¹	1

¹ Taken in two semesters for 2 credits.

Large Ensemble

Note: students playing Rhythm Section instruments (piano,guitar, bass, drums, vibraphone) can substitute 4 credits of large ensemble with free electives).

¹
8-12 credits from :

¹ All ensemble courses under MUEN may be taken in multiple terms.

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUEN 563	Jazz Vocal Workshop.	2
MUEN 572	Cappella Antica.	2
MUEN 573	Baroque Orchestra.	2
MUEN 587	Cappella McGill.	2
MUEN 590	McGill Wind Orchestra.	2

MUEN 592	Chamber Jazz Ensemble.	2
MUEN 593	Choral Ensembles.	2
MUEN 594	Contemporary Music Ensemble.	2
MUEN 595	Jazz Ensembles.	2
MUEN 597	McGill Symphony Orchestra.	2

Advanced Jazz

Instrumental Majors

4 credits from either MUJZ 440 Advanced Jazz Composition 1. and MUJZ 441 Advanced Jazz Composition 2., or MUJZ 461D1 Advanced Jazz Arranging./MUJZ 461D2 Advanced Jazz Arranging.:

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUJZ 440	Advanced Jazz Composition 1 .	2
MUJZ 441	Advanced Jazz Composition 2.	2
MUJZ 461D1	Advanced Jazz Arranging.	2
MUJZ 461D2	Advanced Jazz Arranging.	2

OR

Vocal Majors

Expand allContract all

Course	Title	Credits
MUJZ 425	Jazz Vocal Repertoire 1.	2
MUJZ 426	Jazz Vocal Repertoire 2.	2

Elective Courses (21-25 credits)

3 credits of non-Music Electives.

18-22 credits of Free Electives (may not include courses with a MUEN prefix); students playing Rhythm Section instruments may take up to 22 Free Electives.