

## **JazzWorkshops@JazzAnywhere.com**

**Course name: *Jazz Repertoire: Selection, Practice and Performance***

**Instructor:** [Mike Tracy](#)

### **Type of Class:**

- Live Zoom meetings with comments and discussion.
- All classes will be recorded and archived for those who could not participate live and for those wishing to review.

### **Target audience:**

- Open to all musicians. Any instrument. Any skill level (except absolute instrument beginner). Students should be able to read music and have basic command of the instrument.
- Limited to 25 participants per level/class.

### **Two levels:**

- Entry
- Experienced
- Students enrolled in one level of the class are welcome to peruse the recordings of the other class.

### **Course length and frequency:**

- Each class will meet weekly for 8 weeks
- Session length will be between 75 and 90 minutes depending on activity and discussion.
- All classes will be live and those live sessions will be recorded:
  - Recordings will remain available for one month for those who cannot attend the live sessions and for review by all.

### **Course description:**

Everyone struggles at times when selecting material, from the novice to professional. What tunes to practice, how to work on them and when are they ready to perform. There are so many choices and numerous approaches to practicing, which is the 'right' one for me? Many find it challenging knowing how to assess their progress, how to accentuate their strengths while addressing weaknesses. No wonder some find this overwhelming or frustrating and either stay stagnant or sadly give up.

The **Jazz Repertoire: Selection, Practice and Performance** course will help you to address these challenges, these questions. The course is modeled on Jerry Coker's Tune Vehicle concept. Where you select material that fits your skill level yet challenges you. Where you choose material that is varied yet limited, so that you can focus your attention to each without feeling overwhelmed. Where you can select material you should know with others that just excite you. Where you can successfully build a foundation that you can use to:

- Expand your knowledge of tunes/repertoire.
- Strengthen your knowledge of melodic, harmonic and rhythmic formula.
- Develop effective personal practice habits that work for you.
- Be able to realistically assess your progress.

Jerry Coker is an exceptionally insightful jazz educator and musician. He is someone who has always sought ways to explain and demonstrate effective ways of learning jazz. For those familiar with his many books, you know that Jerry is thorough, that he has a special way of opening minds. Jerry had me use the process when I studied with him and I immediately saw, no heard, results. I have used his Tune Vehicle concept for years with students of all ages, skill types, throughout the world – novice and undergraduate to graduate and professional players. It works and that is what this course will be based upon.

### **Class:**

- You will select repertoire based on the Vehicle Tune concept that you will send me. I will review, possibly offering suggestions.

- We will then select two tunes from 'your' repertoire to work on for each two-week period.
- In class we will discuss ways to approach practicing and performance practice.
- Class is limited to 25 so that a few can play for each other each session for comments – mine and from other students.
- All in the class are encouraged to record your playing (2 to 3 minutes per tune, seems short but longer than you think) and send to me for comments. I promise to respond and comment.
- You will use play-alongs or backing tracks that are available on YouTube or ones you already have, like Jamey's many excellent ones. I can help you find ones on YouTube if needed.
- I will be providing PDFs with practice material and suggestions. I will also offer recorded examples that are available on YouTube.
- I will be giving you 'quizzes' from time to time to challenge your skills. Trust me, the quizzes will not hurt but be quite helpful

Ideally you will attend class or view the recordings every week so that you can progress consistently. I understand that you might not be able to make each class or that you were not part of the 25 to sign up in time. That's OK, I will record and each class will be available – and I encourage you to send your recorded material for comments.