

**JazzWorkshops@JazzAnywhere.com**

**Course name: *Jazz Saxophone Master Class – Study the Masters***  
***Work on all things saxophone - Sound, Technique, Improvisation & More while studying the Masters.***

Saxophonists this class will study will be selected from the following: Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Dexter Gordon, Coleman Hawkins, Hank Mobley, Sonny Rollins, Lester Young.

**Live, interactive classes where students submit recordings for comments.**  
**Class is designed so students can progress at their own pace and skill level.**

**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 saxophonists. Other interested musicians welcome. Any skill level (except absolute instrument beginner). Students should be able to read music and have basic command of the instrument.
- Limited to 20 participants per live class, unlimited via recording.

**Level:**

- Open to saxophonists at all levels.
- Classes will be flexible so that all will benefit.

**Course length and frequency:**

- Each class will meet weekly for 8 weeks
- Session length will be 60 to 75 minutes depending on activity and discussion.
- All classes will be **LIVE and INTERACTIVE** 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:**

All musicians seek to improve as instrumentalists. It is a never-ending process and saxophonists continually work on topics like – tone, intonation, long tones, vibrato, and dynamics; technique, articulations and extended techniques; repertoire, tunes, transcriptions; scales, chords, patterns and memorization; self-expression, improvisation and composition. We will study all things saxophone.

The **Jazz Saxophone Master Class – Study the Masters** course will help you to address these topics, these challenges, helping one to improve through various approaches to playing the saxophone. This course will study master jazz saxophonists, listening to how they play the saxophone, studying their solos and compositions. Focus will be on how master saxophonists address the same challenges we all face. In addition, suggestions will be given on how to develop your personal practice routine focused on addressing your specific needs and goals as a saxophonist, improviser and musician.

Specific focus areas include:

- Sound
  - Tone, vibrato and intonation.
  - Compare and contrast master saxophonists and their tones.
  - How to get the sound you are seeking.

- Technique.
  - How to play the saxophone in an efficient manner.
  - How to articulate in a jazz-like fashion.
  - How to play phrases like the masters.
- Practice routine
  - Establishing an effective practice routine.
  - Know what and how to practice.
  - Knowing how to adapt as you improve.
- Theory.
  - Applying theory while working on your saxophone technique.
  - How to use scales, chords and pattern work to improve both your saxophone technique.
- Improvisation.
  - How to incorporate all aspects of saxophone performance when improvising.
  - Selecting material for improvisation.
- Listening
  - How and what to listen for in a recording and in your own playing.
- Transcribing.
  - How to transcribe and analyze a solo by a master musician so that you can apply in your playing.
  - Transcribing your solos.

### **Class:**

- Classes study a master saxophonist for two sessions (two weeks).
  - We will listen to several selected works by the artist.
  - We will study and analyze a transcribed solo from one of the recordings.
  - We will discuss how the artist approached playing the saxophone, their sound, technique, improvisation and more.
- The class will learn a composition/tune by the artist or one the artist played.
  - The selection will have specific challenges that you will need to address.
  - We will discuss ways to approach practicing and performance practice as applied as a saxophonist and improviser.
  - You will improvise over the selected piece.
- Saxophonists this initial class will study will be selected from the following:
  - John Coltrane, Charlie Parker, Dexter Gordon, Coleman Hawkins, Hank Mobley, Sonny Rollins and Lester Young.
- Personal recordings.
  - All in the class are encouraged to record your playing and send to me for comments.
  - 2 to 4 minutes per tune (seems short but longer than you think)
  - Since you will be studying a selected saxophonist for two weeks, you will record the selected tune twice (once each week), thus giving you the opportunity to apply suggestions and to work through various possibilities.
  - You will use play-along or backing tracts 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.

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 20 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.