

Jazz History Diagnostic Exam

Students who enroll to pursue the Master of Music degree program in Jazz Studies must complete a diagnostic exam dealing with their knowledge of the history of jazz. The exam is scheduled the week prior to their first week of classes. Students must score an 80% or better on the exam or they will be asked to complete either the undergraduate course in jazz history, the Evolution of Jazz, or submit sufficient alternate proof of their knowledge base in this area of study. The exam includes multiple choice, fill in the blank, aural identification, and short essay questions.

Students will be asked to identify aurally the title, artist, and stylistic period of major works significant to the history of jazz. They will also be asked to identify major figures in the music according to the style of jazz with which they are most closely identified. Knowledge of signature events and recordings is also an expectation on this exam. To prepare for the exam, it is recommended that students review the following texts and/or any notes from undergraduate jazz history courses:

Jazz Styles and Analysis, Mark C. Gridley, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Introduction to Jazz History, Donald D. Megill and Richard S. Demory, Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.

Jazz: A History, Frank Tirro, New York, NY, Norton.

Students with questions and/or concerns regarding the exam should contact:

Prof. Jerry Tolson
School of Music
University of Louisville
Louisville, KY 40292
502.852.6972 (office)
jerry.tolson@louisville.edu