



Jazz Lab Band I working with Maria Schneider

JAZZ STUDIES

BGSU COLLEGE OF MUSICAL ARTS

The BGSU jazz department offers unparalleled opportunities for students wishing to study and perform jazz. Multiple ensembles and several annual guest residencies expose students to solo and ensemble literature, styles, pedagogy, the music industry, and more. Our exceptional faculty prepare students in courses like jazz history, composition, and arranging, for a well-rounded education.

College of Musical Arts – Jazz Studies

Points of Pride

- The Hansen Music Fellowship is awarded to two incoming music performance freshmen each year, and provides annual funding for professional development opportunities.
- Endowed guest artist series and visiting guest master classes and performances provide additional opportunities for students to network and learn.
- An average ACT score of over 26, and an unusually low faculty to undergraduate ratio of 6:1.
- Development of musicianship on your instrument or voice from our nearly 60 teaching professionals and specialists.
- Over 30 large and small ensembles, and over 600 performance opportunities each year.
- Available resources include travel grants, guest artists, excellent facilities, and a robust network of alumni performing throughout the world.

Our Students Find Jobs

Alumni from the jazz performance department are numbered throughout the world in the music profession as performers and educators. Notable alumni include trumpeter Tim Hagans and saxophonist Rich Perry. Each year graduating seniors are accepted into prestigious graduate programs and pursue successful performance careers.



Faculty Spotlight

David Bixler is the Associate Professor of Jazz Saxophone and Director of Jazz Activities at BGSU. He directs Jazz Lab Band I, teaches applied lessons, courses in jazz studies, and works with chamber jazz groups. Mr. Bixler has performed and toured with the orchestras of Lionel Hampton, Toshiko Akiyoshi, and Duke Ellington, and has collaborated with Grammy-winning pianist Arturo O’Farrill.

Bixler is also an accomplished composer, educator and clinician. Each year, he arranges for accomplished jazz artists to visit BGSU for residencies where they present master classes and perform with students in the jazz studies program. Recent guests include Maria Schneider, Matt Wilson and Miguel Zenón. He also hosts his own podcast, “Liner Notes,” that provides artists with a platform to speak about their process creating an album, and reveals the humanity behind their music.

For more information
College of Musical Arts
419-372-2181
bgsu.edu/jazz

MAJOR MAP

JAZZ STUDIES Bachelor of Music

CLASS OPTIONS	<p>Freshman Core requirements in music theory and aural skills, applied lessons, ensembles</p>	<p>Sophomore Continue core requirements in music theory and aural skills, applied lessons, ensembles, progress towards piano proficiency</p>	<p>Junior Chamber music, jazz pedagogy, improvisation and arranging classes, ensembles</p>	<p>Senior Senior recital, composition classes, ensembles</p>
GOOD ADVICE	<p>Meet with the College of Musical Arts advisor to plan academic schedule; establish a schedule for courses, study and practice</p>	<p>Consult your applied teacher for sophomore review jury preparations</p>	<p>Meet with advising staff to check degree audit for graduation plan</p>	<p>Apply for graduation at the beginning of the semester in which you plan to graduate</p>
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE	<p>Participate in large and small ensembles</p>		<p>Perform off-campus at jazz jam sessions</p>	<p>Participate in ensembles outside of your major, such as the New Music Ensemble</p>
USEFUL CONNECTIONS	<p>Get involved by joining service/professional student organizations such as the Student Jazz Association</p>	<p>Become a Music Ambassador or volunteer to help with a college festival or competition</p>	<p>Attend an event such as the Jazz Education Network conference and network with colleagues from around the country.</p>	
GLOBAL VIEWS	<p>Explore study abroad opportunities</p>	<p>Consider a Winter Term experiential learning course</p>	<p>Apply for travel and conference grants from the Pro Musica organization</p>	<p>Take a course in World Music or New Music</p>
CAREER PREP	<p>Participate in college recitals and area seminars; attend guest artist recitals and master classes</p>	<p>Attend recitals and master classes put on by the Hansen and McMaster series residencies</p>	<p>Participate in one of our competitions</p>	<p>Build a private lesson studio</p>