UNIVERSIDADE LUSÍADA
LISBOA

Course Unit Program
INTERMEDIATE IMPROVISATION

Academic Year 2025/2026

1. Organic Unit

Faculty of Architecture and Arts

2. Course

JAZZ AND MODERN MUSIC

3. Cycle

1st

4. Course Unit

INTERMEDIATE IMPROVISATION (C6242)

5. Scientific Area

6. Curricular Year

2nd

7. Type of Curricular Unit / Semester

2nd Semester

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8. Class type and workload (work time)

Theoretical classes:	
Practical classes:	
Theoretical-Practical Classes	30,00
Tutorial Guidance:	

9. ECTS Credits

3,00

10. Scientific Area Coordinator

11. Regent

Prof. Doutor MASSIMO CAVALLI

12. Assistants

13. Teaching Language

Portuguese

14. General Objectives

a.Learn, through a step-by-step approach, improvisational styles that apply to each musical genre and any instrument.
b.Acquire a more detailed understanding of the processes linked to improvisation, in order to improve the art of improvisation.
c.Ability to transcribe solos and lines from other instruments, assimilating the techniques and nuances of the masters into one's own instrument.
d.Improvisation seen as an overview of the mental processes that occur at "performance" level.

15. Specific Objectives

a.Interpreting harmonies and composition structure in real time while improvising.
b.Ability to read melodic and rhythmic passages at an intermediate level.
c.Develop the ability to master a variety of improvisational techniques, including the use of chromaticism, leading, and theme development.

16. Skills to be acquired

a.Ability to gain experience as a musician/artist, performing in a more natural and spontaneous way on stage and live.
b.Analyze compositions from the improviser's perspective.
c.Understand the mental processes required for successful improvisation.

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17. Teaching Methodology

a.Projection of examples in visual format.
b.Reading and playing intermediate melodic passages.
c.Reading and playing rhythmic passages in simple and compound time.
d.Bibliography related to forms of improvisation at intermediate level.
e.Listening to, transcribing and playing solos by well-known artists.

18. Course Unit Program

a.What improvisation is, the relationship between improvisation and dialog.
b.Notions of outline and scales/modes.
c.Identifying the scales/modes to play over a chord.
d.Harmony from the improviser's point of view.
e.Melodic development.
f.Improvising on the blues.
g.Analysis of songs/compositions.
h.Tips on solos, structure and the concept of pacing, dynamics and chromaticism.
i.How to accompany.
j.Communicating with the subconscious.
k.Ability to use all the resources described above to create a solo.

19. Assessment Methods

a.Participation, motivation, punctuality and behavior.
b.Homework assignments.
c.Two performance tests throughout the semester.
d.Final performance project in the final session.

20. Didactic Resources

a.Audio and video files.
b. Scores.
c.Practical sessions with small ensembles.

21. Sustainability Objectives

Reducing the use of paper supports by sharing teaching materials on the different digital platforms available, such as Microsoft Teams or Moodle. Use of tablets to avoid printing parts. The use of paper is also made easier by marking attendance online. Holding videoconferences to answer students' questions, avoiding unnecessary travel and consequently polluting the environment.

22. Keywords

intermediate improvisation
rhythmic reading
melodic reading
outlines
modes
chromatisms

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23. Main Bibliography

Author(s):	Ligon, Bert		
Title:	Connecting Chords with linear Harmony		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	1996
Local:	California, EUA		
Publisher:	Hal Leonard Corporation		

Author(s):	Crook, Hal		
Title:	How to Improvise		
Edition:	2ª	Year:	2015
Local:	Alemanha		
Publisher:	Advance Music		

Author(s):	Reeves, Scott-Walsh, Tom		
Title:	Creative Jazz Improvisation		
Edition:	5ª	Year:	2022
Local:	New York & London		
Publisher:	Routledge		

24. Complementary Bibliography

Author(s):	Ligon, Bert		
Title:	Comprehensive Technique for Jazz Musicians		
Edition:	2ª	Year:	1999
Local:	California, EUA		
Publisher:	Hal Leonard Corporation		

Author(s):	Wallace, Shawn-Newton, Keith-Johnson, Kris-Kortyka, Steve		
Title:	Improvise Over Chord Changes		
Edition:	1ª	Year:	2018
Local:	Milwaukee, EUA		
Publisher:	Hal Leonard Corporation		

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Autor / Author	Prof. Doutor MASSIMO CAVALLI
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