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Jazz Information Sheet

Dear Graduate Jazz Studies Applicant,

Thank you for your recent inquiry into our Masters in Jazz Performance program. The following information may be helpful in your decision to attend Queens College. (Please note that Queens College does not offer an undergraduate degree in Jazz Studies. Undergraduates are, however, often invited to participate in Jazz courses and ensembles.)

Prerequisites

Admission is contingent upon:

- Completion of an undergraduate degree (not necessarily in Music or Jazz Studies)
- Completion of the graduate application
- A successful live or taped audition. Auditions are scheduled year round by appointment. Taped auditions must include at least three selections, clearly featuring the applicant as an improvising soloist. Tunes should include one blues, one ballad and one song of contrasting style.
- TOEFL Exam (if applicable)

Program requirements

Our Jazz Performance major consists of 33 credit hours. The work may be completed in 3 semesters, or spread out over as long as 5 years as suits your needs. The course of study includes:

- Advanced Jazz Improvisation 3 hrs
- Jazz History 3 hrs
- Jazz Composition and Arranging 3 hrs
- Jazz Ensemble (3 semesters) 3 hrs
- Private Instruction (3 semesters) 12 hrs

Also offered are Jazz Piano Workshop, Jazz Harmony, Transcription, Counterpoint for Jazz Musicians, Music Business, Arranging and Composition II and Improvisation II. Opportunity for independent projects is included in the schedule. In addition, a graduate recital is required as well as a passing grade on a comprehensive exit examination.

Our Jazz Composition major consists of 33 credit hours. The course of study is as follows:

Private study (3 semesters)	12 hrs
Jazz Composition and Arranging (if needed)	3 hrs
Advanced Jazz Arranging	3 hrs
Jazz History	3 hrs
Orchestration (or equivalent)	3 hrs
Harmony and Counterpoint (or equivalent)	3 hrs
Elective credits	6

In addition, Jazz Composition students will produce performances of their works.

Admission to the Jazz Composition program is contingent upon submission of large ensemble scores and recorded examples of work. Prospective candidates must have experience writing for full jazz ensemble. Experience with strings and orchestral woodwinds is recommended.

Faculty

- Michael Philip Mossman trumpet/arranging/composition/ensemble
- Antonio Hart saxophone/improvisation/ensemble
- David Berkman piano/vocal jazz accompaniment
- Gene Jackson drums
- Vince Cherico drums/latin percussion
- Leon Dorsey bass
- John Blake violin
- JD Walter voice
- Theo Bleckmann voice
- Paul Bollenbach guitar
- Tom Guarna guitar
- Luis Bonilla/Steve Turre trombone
- Jeb Patton piano/piano workshop

Tuition

- Our current tuition charges are \$2720 per full time semester for New York State residents (or \$230 per credit plus \$65 per excess hour) and \$425 per credit per full time semester for Out-of-State residents plus \$85 per excess hour). Charges subject to change. Please call **718 997 5200** for current information.

Financial Aid

- Financial aid, although limited, is usually awarded on the basis of ability and need. Our tuition fees, very low for the New York area, more than compensate for the scarcity of scholarships and assistantships. Many applicants have reported that even with substantial aid offers from other schools, Queens College is still the best value, particularly when the quality of the program is important. Further information on financial assistance is available from the **Financial Aid Office** at **718 997 5123**.

Admission

Admission is based on audition and completion of the **Graduate Admission Application** (available by calling **718 997 5200** - Please inquire about current application deadlines when you call). Candidates for admission will be required to submit three letters of recommendation, undergraduate transcripts (not necessarily in music) and a personal statement.

Auditions

- Auditions may be arranged by writing to **Prof. Mossman** at **michael.mossman@qc.cuny.edu**. Out-of-State students may send a tape in lieu of a live audition, although it is advantageous to audition in person when possible. Please be prepared to demonstrate knowledge of chords, scales, improvisation and sight reading abilities at a graduate level. Questions will be asked regarding the history of your applied instrument in a context. Any examples of your composition and arranging skills will also be a plus. Tapes/CD's should include at least 3 contrasting performances clearly demonstrating your ability to improvise over chord progressions and interpret melodies. All recordings **MUST** have your name and instrument clearly written **on the tape or CD itself, along with your**

contact information. We usually hold auditions on Thursday evenings during Jazz ensemble, in order to provide a rhythm section. Other arrangements may be made if necessary. Please write Michael Mossman at michael.mossman@qc.cuny.edu to confirm your appointment the day before your audition. We will expect to hear three different pieces, featuring you as an improvising soloist. We will also assess your piano skills and sight reading ability. If you are unable to attend, a recorded audition is acceptable, also with 3 pieces, clearly featuring you as an improvising soloist. Your recording should be clearly marked with your instrument and contact information.

Some of our recent graduates include: Antonio Hart (alto sax, RCA recording artist), Conrad Herwig (Grammy winning trombonist), Arturo O’Farrill Jr., (piano, director Lincoln Center Afro-Latin Jazz Orchestra), Miles Griffith (Vocalist in Wynton Marsalis’ “Blood on the Fields”), Darren Barrett (winner 1997 Thelonious Monk Trumpet Competition), Diego Urcola (Paquito D’Rivera Quintet - runner up 1997 Thelonious Monk Trumpet Competition), Jeb Patton (piano, Heath Brothers), Grazia DiGiorgio (Diva), Michel Ouellet (trombone, Mercer Ellington Orch.) William Cepeda (trombone, United Nation Orchestra), Kevin Louis (trumpet, Ellington Orch.) Joe Fiedler (trombone, Toshiko Akiyoshi Orch/Mingus Big band), Luis Perdomo (piano, Ray Barretto New World Spirit) Lage Lund (winner Thelonious Monk Guitar Competition 2005)

Directions

- The Aaron Copland School of Music is located in New York City in the Borough of Queens. We are accessible from all parts of New York City via mass transit. (E or F trains to Continental Ave./Forest Hills, then Q64 bus to Kissena Blvd, then walk two blocks north to campus.
- **Or #7** train to Main St. Flushing, and then Q 25-34 or Q17 bus to school entrance.)
- We are also located directly aside the Long Island Expressway, a major area highway.

Our facilities include a 48-track digital recording studio, MIDI lab, LeFrak Concert Hall, and the Kupferberg Center, a 2000 seat venue featuring major artists in concert. (For **Kupferberg Center info call 718 793 8080**)

Thank you for choosing Queens College, we look forward to hearing from you!