

"Listening to Jazz"

A guide through the different forms and styles of jazz music, past and present

Course in English, Dutch or German given by Jazz musician Axel Hagen (www.axelhagen.com)

The goal of the course is to lift the shroud of mystery around Jazz music and make the processes of Jazz performance visible. Axel will also cover fundamentals of Jazz history and present major historical Jazz compositions. Illustrated with recorded and live music.
We will listen a lot!

In order to maintain a nice and relaxed atmosphere, open for discussion and interactive exchange of thoughts about the music examples the group should not be larger than ±10 people. The course will be held within six sessions of 90 min.

Overview of planned subjects to be covered in the different sessions

1.Introduction:

How do we perceive Jazz, What do I hear in a jazz recording, what makes Jazz stand out between other music like classical music

2.The Forms of Jazz:

the Blues, Jazz standards connected to popular music, compositions by Jazzmusicians

3.Examining the "Jazz band":

who plays when and why, the rhythm section, the Big Band, small groups

4.The Soloist:

what is a Jazz solo, what is Improvisation, when do Jazz musicians not improvise, what is an arrangement

5.Jazz forms which are not based on songs: Jazz since the 1960's

6.Contemporary styles: when Jazz meets Latin, Classical and Eastern music

There will be music played by all the wellknown Jazzmasters like Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Bud Powell, Lennie Tristano and you will be surprised by the nice selection of tunes and performances, which might be lesser known to you.

After each session I will send you a written summary of the covered subjects and played music via email with links to websites and other related material.

My goal is not to present a "Jazzhistory" since I am a musician and not a historian, but you will hear music from all eras of Jazz including contemporary. So you will also get a historic overview.

I am looking for a relaxed atmosphere, with lots of room for discussion and questions. I have a script ready, but there will be some improvisation. Please send me an email (to:axel@axelhagen.com) if you want to participate in one of the following courses or if you want more detailed information about the organization of a course at your company or circle of friends.