

Bakersfield Jazz Workshop at The Petroleum Club of Bakersfield

Notes for Performers (6:30-7:30 beginner class, and 8:30-9:30 jam session...

General Rules (both time slots)

- All musicians MUST sign in upon arrival. The sign-in clipboard will be maintained either by the greeting desk or by the sound technician. You must sign in as an individual...groups coming in to perform together will be accommodated on an availability basis. Be sure to state your instrument. If you are bringing a tune to the Workshop that we do not already have in our books, you will need to bring transcribed lead sheets in C(multiples), Bb and Eb.
- Personnel on the bandstand will be limited based on social distancing guidelines. There can be no more than one musician on any instrument in the back line and no more than three musicians on the front line at any given time.
- Musicians should only approach the stage when called by the sign-in coordinator.
- RESPECT THE ROOM – and the clientele of the Petroleum Club. The room is not large, so all musicians need to set their minds to play at a level of '3' – no higher. Some audience members will be only a few feet away from your bell or amp.
- Musicians will be called generally on a first come-first play basis, but adjustments will be made by the sign-in coordinator based on personnel, instrument mix and level of competency.
- We do not know how many players will come on any given evening. Expect to be playing on no more than two songs. You may get more, but at this point we just don't know...

6:30 - Beginner Jazz Class

- This hour is intended to be an educational exercise. It is possible that we will stop and re-set after we kick off a song. Sometimes things go sideways and we need to start over - this is not a bad thing. The instructor may be talking/working with some of you during the performance, but only to help you while still 'in the moment.'
- Tune selection will be at the discretion of the instructor. Again, the purpose of this hour is to expand your knowledge of jazz - not necessarily to run tunes

you play all the time with your friends. Songs are generally selected for a reason, including personnel at any given time.

- Solos will generally be limited to one chorus for long form (e.g., 32-bar AABA tunes) or two for shorter forms, like 12-bar blues. Ballads may be only ½ of a chorus each.
- If you come but are not on the bandstand, please pay attention to what is going on. There is a lot you can learn about how musicians collaborate on stage, stage presence and etiquette, even when in the audience.

8:30 - Open Jam Session

- As with the 6:30 hour, musicians will be called to the stage by the sign-in coordinator. You may NOT walk up to the stage to play without being called, nor should anyone do so in the middle of a tune. Any questions or special requests should be discussed with the coordinator – the earlier, the better.
- This hour has always been advertised to be ‘jam session’ - and free collaboration of musicians will be given priority over large groups who want to play a tune together.
- If you are bringing tunes to the Workshop, please be prepared to start quickly. On a good night, we may be able to squeeze in six or seven songs before we have to shut down, and spending a lot of time handing out charts, explaining what you want, etc., is ‘dead air’ for the audience, and as a wasted opportunity for others who are waiting to play.
- Please at least offer to help with breakdown at the end of the evening. Many who show up like to hang around and let others do all the work. If you are participating as a player, there is a general understanding that you should be equally involved in helping Workshop volunteers get home before midnight.

This may seem like a ‘lot’ of rules that we didn’t used to have. But in order for the Workshop to run smoothly – especially in a prestigious new venue – the Workshop team is doing everything they can to ensure the long-term success of our community organization in its new home. If you have any questions, suggestions, nits or niggles, please reach out to one of our Board members and let them know your thoughts. We really do want to hear them!

Thank you for your participation and support 😊

Bakersfield Jazz Workshop