

Gloucestershire Jazz Live - Trombonist Expectations

1 - Preparation and practice

- a) As a matter of principle ALL musicians should **arrive punctually at rehearsals / performances** in good enough time to set-up and work through individual warm-ups prior to the rehearsal / performance start time. Bringing a reliable music stand and 2 pencils is also expected.
- b) All GJL members should **ensure they can perform their part to each piece**. If not then practising the necessary parts independently is expected.
- c) A number of GJL pieces will use mutes, therefore owning the respective mutes (or suitable alternatives) is expected: straight mute, plunger mute (or the end of a sink plunger), a cup / bucket mute (or thick plastic circular pot / tupperware) and a wah mute (if cupping hand is ineffective for you).

2 – Development of listening skills

- a) Listening should be a staple part of developing your musicianship. All GJL members are expected to **be familiar with the main developed jazz related genres**; (Blues), Dixieland, 1920s New Orleans style, Chicago “hot” style, Swing (1930-1950s Big Band music), Bebop, Bossa Nova, Latin, Funk and Fusion.
- b) If unfamiliar then **the following styles should also be explored** (by listening and practising) as a developing jazz musician; Charleston, Stomps, Beguine, Foxtrot, Cha-cha, Quickstep, Jungle, Rhumba, East-Coast Jazz (1950s), West coast jazz (1950s), Soul Jazz plus more contemporary / modern styles (late 1960s onwards – eg. Free Jazz, Hip-hop) and more global styles (Cuban, Afro-Cuban, Salsa, Township etc.)
- c) **Pivotal jazz trombonists** to listen to - Kid Ory, J.J. Johnson, Kai Winding, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Knepper, Jack Teagarden, Jimmy Cleveland, Garnett Brown, Slide Hampton, Carl Fontana, Rubin Eubanks, Frank Rosolino, Don Lusher, Wycliffe Gordon, Conrad Herwig, Curtis Fuller, Bob Brookmeyer, Ray Anderson, Steve Davis, Nils Landgren, Delfeayo Marsalis, Dennis Rollins, Winston Rollins, Mark Nightingale, and Trombone Shorty.
- d) For more trombonists to discover please ask your band-leader or your instrumental teacher.

3 – Musical Knowledge

- a) All GJL members are expected to be able to read musical notation, perform up to the expected standard of their band and be developing their improvising skills with their progressing knowledge. As a trombonist this should mean:

Knowledge and understanding of:

- **Technical skills and techniques** (ability to play in all positions and use of all related mutes).
- **Time signatures:** 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 5/4, 6/4, 7/4, 6/8 and 9/8
- **All Italian tempo directions**
- **Structural / textural terminology:** eg. A theme, B theme, Binary form, Ternary form, Rondo form, 32-bar song form, accompaniment, ad lib, bridge, break, chorus, fills, homophonic, intro, imitation, Instrumental, monophonic, octaves, polyphonic, solo, soli, tag, tutti, unison,
- **Specific jazz terminology:** Charleston, comping, head, solo “chorus,” improvisation, riff, “time.”
- **Rhythms:** semibreves [whole notes] to semiquavers [16th notes], triplets, quintuplets, sextuplets, cross-rhythms, polyrhythms, offbeat, syncopated and tied rhythms.
- **Dynamic markings:** from fff to ppp, crescendo, diminuendo, sforzando (sfz), subito forte-piano (sfp).
- **Articulation / phrasing markings:** accents, clipped notes, doit, flips, grace notes, legato, lift, phrase mark, shake, smear, spill, staccato, tenuto, trills, vibrato and wah.

Understanding of jazz chords is vital as well as arpeggios

Major, minor, major 6, minor 6, major 7, minor (major 7), minor 7, 6/9, 7, 9, 13, (b5), (#5), (b9), (#9), (#11)

Understanding of basic and jazz associated scales is also vital

Ionian, Natural minor (Aeolian), Harmonic minor, Jazz “Natural” minor, Chromatic, Blues, Mixolydian, Dorian, Lydian, Lydian Dominant, Phrygian, Locrian, Whole-tone, Altered, Diminished (half-whole), Diminished (whole-half)

Understanding the difference between straight, swing, shuffle and 12/8 grooves is vital to all jazz musicians

4 – Technical Ability

- a) Ability to perform the following techniques – playing in the lower, mid and upper registers, ghost notes, glissando (slides), growling and tonguing (single, double, triple, flutter). Plus techniques related to using mutes.
- b) As a matter of principle all musicians should practice sight-reading on a bi-weekly basis (at least)
- c) Developing the ability to perform from tempo 45 to 240 bpm