

Course title: A600 Listening to jazz

Date: 2 September – 30 September

Time: 6pm – 7.30pm

Number of Sessions: 5

Fee – full: £30.00

Fee – concession: £20.00

Tutor: Mark Polishook

Summary Description: Explore styles across the history of jazz to appreciate how practitioners extended, subverted and challenged the classical music tradition.

Detailed Description: Listening to Jazz will look at and listen to the history of jazz by considering it through four stylistic periods: Pre-swing and swing (1900 - 1940), bebop and virtuosic practice (1940 - 1950), post-bebop and so-called "free" jazz (1950 - 1980), and contemporary practice and styles (1980 -). Through discussion of these about these four periods, learners will hear and see connections and disruptions - artistic and social and cultural - that flow through and from the history of jazz. Among the influential jazz improvisors whose work will be explored are Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Art Tatum, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Ornette Coleman, Joe Zawinul, Paul Motian, Fred Hersch, and the Bad Plus. At the conclusion of the course, learners will have a critical appreciation for innovative styles that have come to be known as jazz.

Objectives/Outcomes: By hearing jazz and discussing its musical, historical, and cultural context, listeners will increase enjoyment of jazz while at the same time appreciating radical, revolutionary nature of jazz.