

Sami Blosser

PREREQUISITES

- Ability to play all notes in normal register of horn
 - Low Bb to palm key F on saxophone
- Can fluently read music
 - Proficient in treble clef
 - Working knowledge of bass clef
 - Proficient in rhythmic identification
- Can confidently play all 12 major scales
- Can easily recite cycle of fourths (circle of fifths)

YEAR 1: Fundamentals

- **GOALS**
 - Ignite a passion for jazz and ancestral music
 - Begin developing deep, analytical listening skills through guided listening of quintessential jazz records
 - Build connection between ear and horn by learning melodies and basslines from said jazz records
 - Overcome playing anxiety and insecurity while strengthening intuition through free improvisation
 - Gain a precise, scientific knowledge of how to develop a clear, supported sound
 - Become immersed in aural history of masters of student's instrument
 - Become a part of the community by attending local gigs and jam sessions as an active listener

YEAR 2: Technique and theory

- **GOALS**
 - Continue sound development with more flexibility-focused exercises
 - Have full control* over all basic scales in all 12 keys, including:
 - Major**
 - Dorian, natural (aeolian), harmonic, and melodic minors
 - Major and minor pentatonics
 - Blues
 - *full control = can play up and down full natural range of horn as 16th notes at quarter note = 120 BPM
 - **will also be able to play major scales ascending and descending in all intervals up through 7ths
 - Be able to easily access arpeggios over basic chord qualities in all 12 keys, including:
 - Major 7
 - Dominant 7
 - (Dorian) minor 7
 - Augmented 7

Sami Blosser

- Diminished 7
- Be able to quickly and accurately transpose basic melodies through all 12 keys
- Expand aural/historical knowledge through guided listening that begins to lean into student's tastes
- Begin learning and improvising over simple forms/standards by:
 - Implementing appropriate melodies and chord scales
 - Applying basic language from mini-transcriptions
- Continue attending live gigs and jams and sit in at least once by end of year

YEAR 3: Copycat

● GOALS

- Gain control over more advanced scales and when to use them, including:
 - Fully altered
 - Half-whole/Whole-half diminished
 - Whole tone
- Be able to arpeggiate both previous and new chords up to 13th. New chords include:
 - Any altered dominant
 - Half-diminished
- Find one Key Artist for the year and:
 - Deep dive into their discography using active listening techniques
 - Transcribe one or more of their solos
 - Develop change-playing vocabulary through selected licks taken from transcriptions and worked through a multitude of scenarios
 - Decipher their sound using specific vocal techniques
- Learn fundamental blues heads and jazz standards, especially those recorded by Key Artist and/or those frequently called at regularly attended jams
- Begin regularly playing with other musicians at jam sessions
- Learn proper jam session etiquette

YEAR 4: Further Explorations

● GOALS

- Develop individual tone using precise technique based on favorite artists and student's anatomical capabilities
- Dig into heavier jam session tunes with more complex chord changes and/or non-traditional forms and/or more technically demanding heads
- Learn less commonly called tunes based on preference
 - Host private session with select peers to play said tunes
- Expand aural vocabulary with guided listening through more experimental/modern albums
 - May also include relevant listening outside jazz cannon

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- Learn “dream transcription” AKA technically demanding solo that student is drawn to but feels out of reach
 - Work transcription as before: internalize, then integrate into tunes currently working on
- Learn 3-step system to overcome any mental blockages that may arise at this stage
- Discuss potential for continuation of study with career intentions