

Early Jazz Masterclass

With the Basin Street Brawlers

The Basin Street Brawlers offer performance masterclasses focussing on jazz of the 1920s and 30s at universities and conservatoires throughout the UK. They have most recently been working with students at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The members of the group, all experienced educators, have developed, in consultation with their trombonist Malcolm Earle-Smith (Senior Lecturer in Jazz Studies at Trinity Laban Conservatoire), itineraries for half day and full day workshops. The timetable below can be adapted according to individual requirements.

Masterclass itinerary:

Section I:

Introduction to Early Jazz

Duration: **90 minutes**

- **Short performance** by the Basin Street Brawlers and a discussion of the **historical background to jazz of the 1920s and 30s**.
- Discussion and demonstration of **instrumental roles in early jazz**.
- **Front line ensemble playing** - improvised counterpoint, spontaneous harmonisation of melodies and riffs.
- **Rhythm section playing** - rhythmic and harmonic techniques for piano and guitar. Communication in the rhythm section; how to create variety in texture and feel. Bass players and drummers will also be catered for although absent from our ensemble!
- **Leadership and arranging on the bandstand**.

B R E A K - 20 minutes

Section 2:

The students play.

Duration: **90 minutes**

Students initially play alongside members of the ensemble, but will be encouraged to take more individual responsibility as the session progresses. The following areas will be covered:

- **Learning a tune** - singing the melody and then playing by ear.
- **Improvising with the tune** - rhythmic and melodic embellishment, expression through sound and articulation.
- **Harmonic improvisation** - use of simple chord structures and guide tone lines when soloing or playing collectively.
- **Blues vocabulary** - adding colour and expression to solos and ensemble playing.
- **Ensemble skills** - how to improvise an arrangement and lead with confidence.
- **Repertoire to choose from:** Careless Love Blues, Dinah, Dr Jazz, How Long Blues.

HALF DAY MASTERCLASS ENDS HERE

Full day workshops: Lunch - 50 minutes

Section 3:

Smaller combos.

Duration: **1 hour 20 minutes.**

- Students split up into smaller groups, supervised by members of the ensemble.
- Each group will work on new material. Building on work in Section 2, students will develop their solo and ensemble skills further.

B R E A K - 20 minutes.

Section 4:

Smaller combo performances.

Duration: **30 - 45 minutes**

- Students reassemble to perform small combo pieces to their colleagues. Feedback is encouraged.

Outcomes:

- Students are introduced to the stylistic and historical basis of early jazz
- Students are introduced to musical approaches widely used in jazz of the 20s and 30s, including collective improvisation, rhythm section techniques, blues interpretation, ensemble communication and leadership.
- On a wider basis, knowledge of these musical approaches can inform and enhance the playing of other kinds of jazz, including more contemporary styles.
- It is hoped our masterclasses will also support on-going college projects, as well as inspiring new ones.

Masterclass leaders



Peter Horsfall

Pete Horsfall leads the Basin Street Brawlers. As a trumpet player and vocalist he has performed at most major UK jazz venues and festivals, including leading his own quartet at the famous Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club. Pete is also leader of the Pizza Express Jazz Club house band and is a founding member of the Kansas Smitty's House Band. He has also made international appearances, including a week in New York City at Jazz at Lincoln Center and has co-led early jazz masterclasses at the Guildhall School of Music.



Malcolm Earle-Smith

Malcolm Earle-Smith is a highly regarded trombone player and vocalist who has performed with an array of well-known artists including Kenny Baker, Jack Parnell and Martha Reeves. His lengthy association with Bryan Ferry has seen him appear on Ferry's acclaimed albums *As Time Goes By* (1999) and more recently *The Jazz Age* (2012). A respected educator, Malcolm is both Senior Lecturer in jazz studies at the Trinity College of Music and Professor of jazz trombone at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.



Martin Wheatley

Martin Wheatley is a virtuoso guitar, banjo, ukelele and mandolin player. As a specialist in early blues & jazz styles Martin's expertise have been called upon by many highly regarded artists, including Bryan Ferry, featuring on Ferry's most recent recording *The Jazz Age* (2012). He has also performed with the John Wilson Orchestra and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, amongst many others. Martin has co-led masterclasses in early jazz styles, including with the Basin Street Brawlers at the Guildhall School of Music.



Ewan Bleach

Ewan Bleach is a leading light on the London jazz scene. He leads his own Cable Street Rag Band and organises many successful club nights featuring early jazz music, including the infamous Cakewalk Cafe. Also in demand in the USA, Ewan has spent much time in New Orleans playing clarinet in one of that city's leading ensembles 'Tuba Skinny'. Ewan has also taught early jazz styles at the Guildhall School of Music.



Colin Good

Colin Good is an internationally renowned authority on the jazz piano stylings of the 1920s and 1930s. His career has seen him tour with artists such as The Ink Spots, The Pasadena Roof Orchestra and Bryan Ferry. In his role as musical director for the Bryan Ferry Orchestra, he is featured on the acclaimed albums *As Time Goes By* (1999) and more recently *The Jazz Age* (2012). Colin has taught and led master classes on early jazz styles at the Trinity College of Music.