
The Study of Saxophone Year 3

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). A Nine-Year Course of Study for the Modern Saxophonist-Doubler — Saxophone, Flute & Clarinet.

What Year 3 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method: Salviani-Iasilli

THE YEAR

October to July, in two semesters.
Mid-term exam: early March.
Final exam: early July.

Saxophone students are required to complete the listed methods and satisfactorily present the required scale and arpeggio materials during each school year. Ten compositions will be chosen from each repertoire list and developed to a performance level. Repertoire for the jury examination should be selected in consultation with the student's teacher. Pieces not listed may be studied and performed with the permission of the teacher. Extensive participation in a saxophone quartet and with other instruments in the performance of chamber music and large wind ensemble is requisite for students who have attained an acceptable performance level.

The Study of Saxophone · Desired Competencies

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

1

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Scales: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

2

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Major keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

3

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Harmonic minor keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

4

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
In 3rds: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · ♩ =60

Open in the app

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include 3rds + arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

All Major and Harmonic minor scales, with Tonic and Dominant 7th arpeggios
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60 · arpeggios in the app: major keys (tonic and V7)

Open in the app

6

In 3rds: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

7

Watch the video · 19 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/year-3/

Watch the video

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 3

Core Methods

Salviani-Iasilli, Exercises in All Practical Keys

Andersen, 24 Petites Etudes

Senon, Techni-Saxophone

Londeix, Exercices Mécaniques, 2ème Cahier

Additional Methods

Traits d'Orchestre pour Saxophone Alto

Mintzer, 14 Blues and Funk Studies

Mule, 18 Studies after Berbiguier

Tate, 250 Jazz Patterns

Ricker, Advanced Chord Etudes for Saxophone

Van Lenten, Creative Jazz Exercises, Vol. 2

Sorok, Etudes pour Saxophone

Klosé, Etudes pour Saxophone

Gerard, Improvising Sax Jazz

Niehaus, Jazz Conception for Saxophone Duets

Niehaus, Jazz Conception for Saxophone — Intermediate

Snidero, Jazz Conception (play-along)

Bay, Jazz Saxophone Concepts

Mule, Pièces Célèbres, Vols. 1, 2, 3

Ricker, Pentatonic Scales for Jazz Improvisation

Voxman, Selected Studies

Viola, Technique, Saxophone, Vol. 3 — Rhythm Studies

Marienthal, The Two-Hour Practice Session

Tompsett, Ultimate Funk Book for Bb instruments

Sinta, Voicing — An Approach to Third Range

Methods and Repertoire for the Developing Saxophone Quartet

Teal, The Art of Saxophone Playing

Klosé, 25 Daily Exercises for Saxophone

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 3

Core Repertoire

Crépin, Mandarine for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Truillard, Sérénade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dautremer, Emotion for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lacour, Belle Époque for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Planel, Suite Romantique for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Druet, Sérénade Impromptu for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lesieur, Sarabande et Menuet for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire (1 of 2)

Absil, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bach, Choral Jésus que ma joie demeure for Soprano Saxophone and Piano
Bach, Le Choral du Veilleur for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bach, Prélude à la Cantate No. 156 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bazelaire, Concerto for Tenor Saxophone and Piano
Bizet, Agnus Dei for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bizet, Intermezzo, L'Arlésienne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Brown, Tango for SOLO Tenor Saxophone
Burgmüller, Op. 100 No. 2 Arabesque for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Hovhaness, The Flowering Peach for Alto Saxophone and Perc.
Chopin, Op. 10 No. 3 Etude for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Corelli, Gigue for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Debussy, La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin for Tenor or Soprano Saxophone and Piano
Demersseman, Premier Solo — Andante et Boléro for Tenor Saxophone and Piano
Desportes, Saxo Danses for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fauré, Op. 33 No. 3 — Nocturne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fauré, Sicilienne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fiche, Concerti Pour un Astronaute for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Gershwin, 11 Songs arr. Strommen (play-along)

Repertoire and Ensembles

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Additional Repertoire (2 of 2)

Handel, Adagio for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Marche for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Sonate No. 1 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Sonate No. 3 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Haydn, 3rd Mvt. for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Classens, Jerusalem for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Hovhanness, Suite for Alto Saxophone and Guitar
Ibert, Aria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Histoires for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Mélopée for Alto Saxophone or Tenor and Piano
Lancen, Légende Heureuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Martin, Ballade for SOLO Tenor Saxophone
Planel, Suite Romantique for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Schubert, Ave Maria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Teal, Solos for the Alto Saxophone Player with Piano Accompaniment
Vivaldi, Op. 3 No. 6 — 1st Mvt. for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Weber, Saxetto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Williams, Six Studies in English Folk Songs for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Zaninelli, Autumn Music for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Ensembles (1 of 2)

La Bamba — Saxophone Choir (SAAATTB)
Loeillet, Sonate for Two Saxophones — Saxophone Duet
West, Hip to the Blues — 22 Duets — Saxophone Duets
NUNCA TUVO NOVIO PROLIJO — Saxophone Quartet
Fauré, Pavane — Saxophone Quartet
Londeix, Practical Exercises for Saxophone Ensembles — Saxophone Quartet
Mozart, Serenade No. 11 — Saxophone Quartet
Senon, Vingt Flash Jazz — Saxophone Quartet
Concierto en la Luna — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
Naranjo en Flor — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
Gillespie, A Night in Tunisia — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
Blue Trane — Saxophone Quartet
Raff, Cavatina — Saxophone Quartet
Martini, Célèbre Gavotte — Saxophone Quartet
Mozart, Così Fan Tutte — Saxophone Quartet
Grieg, arr. Erickson, Folk Songs — Saxophone Quartet
Clérisse, Introduction et Scherzo — Saxophone Quartet
Pierné, La Veillée de l'Ange Gardien — Saxophone Quartet

Ensembles

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Ensembles (2 of 2)

Mario Bros — Saxophone Quartet

Memphis Underground — Saxophone Quartet

Joplin, Peacherine Rag — Saxophone Quartet

Françaix, Petit Quatuor pour Saxophones — Saxophone Quartet

Handel, So Shall the Lute and Harp Awake — Saxophone Quartet

Ory, The Kid — Saxophone Quartet

Grieg, The Last Spring — Saxophone Quartet

Haley, While Strolling — Saxophone Quartet

Wiedoeft, Saxophobia — Saxophone Quartet

Prati, Nine Negro Spirituals — Saxophone Quartets

Voxman, Repertoire for Saxophone Quartet — Saxophone Quartets

Blues Pentatônico — Saxophone Sextet (SAATTB)

Ericho — Saxophone Sextet (SAATTB)

Diabelli, Six for Three — Saxophone Trio (3 Altos)

Piazzolla, Adiós Nonino — Saxophone Trio

Depelsenaire, Concertino for 3 Alto Saxophones and Piano — Saxophone Trio

Piège à Trois — Saxophone Trio (AAT)

The Doubler's Path

Start flute in Years 3–4. Start clarinet in Years 4–5. Both instruments are lifelong companions, not temporary hurdles.

Flute — Introduced Years 3–4

Method books:

Trevor Wye, Practice Books for the Flute, Vols. 1–5

Marcel Moyse, De la Sonorité

Taffanel & Gaubert, 17 Daily Exercises

Repertoire entry points:

Bach, Flute Sonatas BWV 1030–1035

Telemann, Fantasias for Solo Flute

Hindemith, Sonata for Flute and Piano

Fauré, Fantasia for Flute and Piano

The flute is where classical technique is refined and a second embouchure vocabulary is built. The crossover with saxophone breathing and support is significant. Do not treat flute as a shortcut — it is a separate discipline that demands separate daily practice.

Clarinet — Introduced Years 4–5

Method books:

Klosé, Celebrated Method for Clarinet

Baermann, Complete Method, Vol. 3

Rose, 32 Etudes and 40 Studies

Cavallini, Caprices

Repertoire entry points:

Weber, Concerto No. 1 and Concerto No. 2

Mozart, Clarinet Concerto K. 622

Brahms, Sonatas Op. 120

Stravinsky, Three Pieces for Clarinet Solo

Clarinet demands a fundamentally different embouchure, a single-reed response that is more exposed than saxophone, and a tone production philosophy that is its own. The saxophonist who plays clarinet with saxophone habits sounds like a saxophonist pretending. Study it right: from the ground up, with a clarinet teacher if possible, at least in the early stages.

Desired Competency

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3)

Acquisition of basic skills

air column / breathing
concept for sound / timbre
articulation
rhythmic, digital and timbral homogeneity
accuracy
flexibility
nuance
intonation
vibrato

And

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.
Ability to hear and play dynamics, develop a sense of musical phrasing and a basic understanding of blend and balance.
Cultivation of the ability to memorize simple musical passages.
Development of basic sight-reading skills.
Ability to notate simple musical passages.
Understanding of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation using basic facility.
Basic knowledge of the history of the saxophone and the Giants of Saxophone.
Experience in ensemble performance — piano accompaniment — ensemble of saxophones.
Public performance.

Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

1

air column / breathing
Long tones: breathing and one steady note

[Open in the app](#)

2

concept for sound / timbre
Long tones

[Open in the app](#)

3

articulation
The Milestone (articulation) · ♩ =60

[Open in the app](#)

4

rhythmic, digital and timbral homogeneity
All 12 Major scales in quarters, eighths, triplets and 16ths · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

[Open in the app](#)

Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

flexibility

Tonic triad arpeggios, all 12 Major keys · two octaves · ♩ =60
(Overtones & voicing: basic concepts only, for extremely advanced students)

[Open in the app](#)

6

nuance

Long tones: soft → full → soft (messa di voce)

[Open in the app](#)

7

intonation

Long tones, then Lock-On (tune two tones until the beating stops), level 1

[Open in the app](#)

8

vibrato

Vibrato

[Open in the app](#)

Desired Competency in the app

Preparatory Cycle (Preparatory Year to Year 3). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

9

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.
All 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

[Open in the app](#)

10

Development of basic technique and knowledge of all Major and Minor scales.
All 12 natural minor and melodic minor scales · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

[Open in the app](#)

11

Ability to hear and play dynamics, develop a sense of musical phrasing and a basic understanding of blend and balance.
Dynamics: Long tones, soft → full → soft

[Open in the app](#)

12

Understanding of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation using basic facility.
Chord-scale: the ii-V-I, then its scales: Dorian (ii), Mixolydian (V), Major (I), all 12 keys · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app on the scales

[Open in the app](#)

Make it yours

Every link here is a starting point. To change one, open For Teachers in The Whole Horn, set the key, tempo or hours, add your own sentence, make the link, and paste it over ours. This is one year of The Study of Saxophone. The whole course, from the Preparatory Year to Year 9, is on thewholehorn.com.

This is a living framework. Use it as a foundation, adapt it to your context, and revise it as new resources emerge.

thewholehorn.com/study-of-saxophone