
The Study of Saxophone Year 6

First Higher Cycle (Years 4 to 7). A Nine-Year Course of Study for the Modern Saxophonist-Doubler —
Saxophone, Flute & Clarinet.

What Year 6 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Sight-Reading exam
2. Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
3. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano or Solo Saxophone
4. Performance of Etudes from selected method: Ferling Etudes (ALL)

THE YEAR

October to July, in two semesters.

Mid-term exam: early March.

Final exam: early July.

Daily practice: 4 to 5 hours a day (from the Fourth Year on, 3 to 6 hours a day; at least three hours on a bad day).

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 diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords. The app has no augmented scale: practice those from the page.

1 Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
All 12 diminished scales, half–whole and whole–half · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

2 Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
Diminished scales (half–whole and whole–half) in 4ths · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

3 Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
Diminished scales (half–whole and whole–half) in 5ths · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

4 Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
Diminished scales (half–whole and whole–half) in 6ths · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

5 Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
Diminished scales (half–whole and whole–half): arpeggiated triads · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords. The app has no augmented scale: practice those from the page.

6

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords
Diminished scales (half–whole and whole–half): arpeggiated 7th chords · ♩ =60

Open in the app

7

All diminished scales, half–whole and whole–half
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

8

Diminished scales in 4ths
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

9

Diminished scales in 5ths
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

10

Watch the video · 22 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/year-6/

Watch the video

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all diminished and augmented scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated triads and 7th chords. The app has no augmented scale: practice those from the page.

11

Diminished scales in 6ths
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

12

Diminished scales: arpeggiated triads
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

13

Diminished scales: arpeggiated 7th chords
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 6

Core Methods

Andersen, 24 Etudes Instructives
Montbrun, 6 Pièces Musicales
Londeix, Sur les Gammes Conjointes
Gilles, 32 Etudes Mélodiques et Techniques
Debondue, 50 Sight-Reading Etudes
Salviani-Iasilli, Exercises in All Practical Keys
Charlie Parker Omnibook

Additional Methods

Reeves, Creative Jazz Improvisation
Mule, Etudes Variées
Coker, Patterns for Jazz
Sinta, Voicing — An Approach to Third Range for Saxophone

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 6

Core Repertoire

Bozza, Prélude et Divertissement for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Busser, Asturias for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dautremet, Tango et Tarentelle for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Françaix, Cinq Danses Exotiques for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Montbrun, Six Pièces Musicales et d'Etudes for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire

Bach, Sonata in A minor for Solo Flute (BWV 1013)
Bozza, Pièce Brève for SOLO Saxophone
Creston, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Duclos, Pièce Brève for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Jolivet, Fantaisie Impromptu
Koechlin, 15 Etudes for Saxophone
Piazzolla, Tango Etudes for SOLO Saxophone
Teal, Program Solos, Alto Saxophone and Piano
Teal, Solos for the Alto Saxophone Player with Piano Accompaniment

Desired Competency

Years 4 to 8

Deepening skills acquired in the Preparatory Cycle

air column / breathing
development of a personal, mature sound
articulation
rhythmic, digital and timbral homogeneity
accuracy
flexibility
nuance
intonation
vibrato

And

Fluidity of technique as well as knowledge of alternative fingerings.
Ability to play "extreme" nuance, to tune alone, to control and correct intonation.
Ability to memorize music.
Sight-reading at the level of "working musicians."
Knowledge, technical facility, and musical maturity in contemporary music.
Understanding and application of the wide variety of music notation in contemporary music.
Knowledge and practice of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation.
Listening skills, Jazz phrasing, memorization of easy jazz standards, and the ability to transcribe solos.
The history of the saxophone, the different epochs and styles, and important figures.
Understanding and application of descriptive and analytical vocabulary.
Ensemble performance — piano accompaniment — chamber music — ensemble of saxophones — orchestra, Jazz combos and Jazz ensembles — knowing how to conduct a set and a rehearsal.
Perform in public as a soloist.
Participate on a stage.
Promote general musical culture by listening to and performing music of all kinds.

Desired Competency in the app

Years 4 to 8. 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

development of a personal, mature sound
Long tones, then Overtones & voicing

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

Years 4 to 8. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

flexibility
Overtones & voicing

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

Years 4 to 8. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

9

Ability to play "extreme" nuance, to tune alone, to control and correct intonation.
Long tones (nuance), then Lock-On (tuning alone), level 1

[Open in the app](#)

10

Knowledge and practice of chord-scale relationships; Jazz improvisation.
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](#)

11

Listening skills, Jazz phrasing, memorization of easy jazz standards, and the ability to transcribe solos.
Listening: Name It (hear two notes or a chord, name it), level 1

[Open in the app](#)

12

Listening skills, Jazz phrasing, memorization of easy jazz standards, and the ability to transcribe solos.
Listening: Chord Colors (hear a chord, name its color), level 1

[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