
THE WHOLE HORN · CURRICULA AND SYLLABI

The Study of Saxophone

A nine-year course of study, from the Preparatory Year to Year 9: exams, methods, repertoire and the practice links for each year

Contents

Preparatory Year	3
Year 1	13
Year 2	25
Year 3	35
Year 4	49
Year 5	61
Year 6	74
Year 7	86
Year 8	100
Year 9	112

ONLINE

Every syllabus, with its practice links and films, is at thewholehorn.com/curriculum. Each link opens the exercise in The Whole Horn app, on the student's own instrument.

The Study of Saxophone Preparatory Year

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

What the Preparatory Year asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major scales found in l'Alphabet du Saxophone
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method: l'Alphabet du Saxophone

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

1

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major scales found in l'Alphabet du Saxophone
All 12 Major scales · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

“Students in the preparatory year should be encouraged to learn all 12 scales. This is counterintuitive for most educators. The rationale is retention. Students are very concerned with their own success, and if they can be led to believe that learning 12 scales is an absolute necessity, on the other side of that they will see themselves as outliers. This is why the Milestone exercise in the app really is a milestone.”

2

Practice this year in The Whole Horn

Open in the app

3

Watch the video · 20 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/preparatory-year/

Watch the video

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · the Preparatory Year

Core Methods

Method, Prati, l'Alphabet du Saxophone

Method, Janzen, Themes Celebres pour Flute a Bec / Soprano Saxophone

Method, Vilio, Pieces Faciles pour Saxophone

Additional Methods

Mule, 24 Etudes Faciles Saxophone

Meriot, 25 Easy Etudes

Prati, 29 Études Progressives

Herfurth, A Tune a Day, Book 2

Klosé, Complete Method for Saxophone

Londeix, Exercices Mechaniques, Vol. 1

Rubank, Intermediate Method for Saxophone

Delangle, Methode de Saxophone Debutants, Vols. 1–2

Hal Leonard, Play Alto Sax Today! Level 1

O'Niel, The Jazz Play-a-long Method for Saxophone

Andrew Scott, The Art of Saxophone

Druet, L'École Française du Saxophone

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · the Preparatory Year

Core Repertoire

Desloges, Fabliau for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Boutine, Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Aubine, Chansons dans la Rue for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lacour, Tendre Melodie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lamaire, Mon Premier Recital for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Naulais, Coconotes for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire

Bozza, Le Campanile for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Carlin, Menthe à l'Eau for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Cecconi, Ariette for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Easy Classical Saxophone Play-a-longs 1, 2
Gorisse, Jour de Fête Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Gounod, Ave Maria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Guicherd, Contrastes pour Sax Alto et Petites Percussions
Londeix, Beau Dion for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Londeix, Bachelette Tableaux Aquitains for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Martin, Berceuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Naulais, Pain d'épices for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Pascal, Planetarium for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Perrin, Complainte for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Purcell, Lilliburlero for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Saint-Saëns, Carnaval — Le Cygne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tchaikovsky, Op. 20a Intro for Alto Saxophone and Piano

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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app on the scales

[Open in the app](#)

The whole course

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 1

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

What Year 1 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major scales in two octaves and arpeggios (tonic triad)
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method: Lacour, Vol. 1

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 scales in two octaves and arpeggios (tonic triad). Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

1

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major scales in two octaves and arpeggios (tonic triad)
All 12 Major scales and the tonic triad arpeggio · two octaves (as the syllabus asks) · ♩ =60

Open in the app

2

All Major scales, two octaves, with the tonic triad arpeggio
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

3

Watch the video · 24 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/year-1/

Watch the video

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 1

Core Methods

Londeix, La Saxophone en Jouant (2ème Cahier)

Lacour, 50 Etudes Faciles, Vol. 1

Lacour, Précis sur les Etude des Gammes

Prati, 7 Etudes Faciles et Progressives

Londeix, La Découverte de la Musique du XVIIe and XVIIIe Siècles

Dupin, La Déchiffrage du Débutant (Sight-reading for Beginners)

Additional Methods

Mule, 24 Etudes Faciles for Saxophone

Meriot, 25 Etudes Faciles for Saxophone, Vol. 1

Lacour, 50 Etudes, Vol. 1

Bay, Basic Rhythmic Concepts for Jazz and Contemporary Phrasing

Auteurs variés, Canons (Simple etudes)

Klosé, Complete Method for Saxophone

Skornicka, Intermediate Method

Niehaus, Jazz Improvisation for Saxophone

Delangle, Méthode de Saxophone, Vol. 2

Mule, Pièces Célèbres for Bb Soprano Saxophone

Rizzo, Reading Jazz

Freeman, Studies and Improvisations for Saxophone

Teal, The Art of Saxophone Playing

Lindeman, The Henry Lindeman Method for Saxophone

de Ville, Universal Method for Saxophone

Methods and Repertoire for the Developing Saxophone Quartet

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 1

Core Repertoire

Dubois, La Départ du Roi for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Alessandrini, Valse Lente for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Carles, Panteline for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Succari, Douleurs d'Automne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Aubine, Petite Rêverie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Berthelot, La Berçant, l'Ourson for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire (1 of 2)

Absil, Cinq Pièces Faciles for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ameller, Lirico for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bachelette, Tableaux Aquitains for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Beaucamp, Chant Elégiaque for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Gavotte des Demoiselles for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Rêves d'Enfants for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Burgmüller, Sincerity for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Carlin, Hispanie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Classens, Jerusalem for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Classens, Le Nouveau Saxophone Classique, Vol. B
Clérisse, À l'Ombre du Clocher for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fauré, Après un Rêve for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ferran, Baghira for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fiche, Concerti Pour un Astronaute for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Fiche, Mirage IV for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ghidoni, Mélodie en Miniature for Alto or Tenor Saxophone and Piano
Grémont, Larghetto en Ut Majeur for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Repertoire and Ensembles

The Study of Saxophone · Year 1

Additional Repertoire (2 of 2)

Gretchaninoff, Deux miniatures for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Indy, Choral Varié for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Jay, Andante for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Le Campanile for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Londeix, Tableaux Aquitains for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Martini, Gavotte for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Faillenot, Danse Fantasque for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Mozart, K. 495 — 1st Mvt, for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Mozart, K. 495 — 2nd Mvt, for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Mozart, K. 495 — 3rd Mvt, for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Pachelbel, Canon in D and F for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Purcell, Trumpet Tune for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Rameau, Tambourin for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Saint-Saëns, Danse Macabre for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Smith, Star Spangled Banner for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Wedding Collection for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Duets and Ensembles (1 of 2)

Mozart, Saxophone Duets (Alto and Tenor)
Bartók, Mikrokosmos (Saxophone Duets)
Henderson, Duets for All Instruments
Voxman, Selected Saxophone Duets, Vol. 1
McKeown, Swing-Duet
Great Latin Favourites (Saxophone Duos, Trios)
Raff, Cavatina — Saxophone Quartet
Dervaux, Ciolina — Saxophone Quartet
Da Pacem Domine — Saxophone Quartet (SAATB)
Grieg, arr. Erickson, Folk Songs — Saxophone Quartet
Hey Jude — Saxophone Quartet (SAATB)
Moussorgsky, In the Village — Saxophone Quartet
Bizet, Intermezzo — Saxophone Quartet
Pierné, La Veillée de l'Ange Gardien — Saxophone Quartet
Debussy, Le Petit Nègre — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
Margot — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
My Funny Valentine — Saxophone Quartet

Ensembles

The Study of Saxophone · Year 1

Duets and Ensembles (2 of 2)

Erickson, Nocturne — Saxophone Quartet
Voxman, Repertoire for Saxophone Quartet
Handel, Sarabande et Menuet — Saxophone Quartet
Erickson, Scherzo — Saxophone Quartet
Erickson, Serenade — Saxophone Quartet
Veit, Stille Weis — Saxophone Quartet
Gershwin, Summertime — Saxophone Quartet (SATB)
Suo Gan — Saxophone Quartet
Grieg, The Last Spring — Saxophone Quartet
Gershwin, Un Américain à Paris — Saxophone Quartet
Brahms, Valse — Saxophone Quartet
An Intrada for Jazz Trio — Saxophone Quintet (SAATB)
The Bare Necessities — Saxophone Quintet (SAATB)
The Lincolnshire Poacher — Saxophone Sextet (SAATTB)
Le Donjon Dans La Brume — Saxophone Trio (AAA)
Harvey, Saxophone Quartets, Vol. 1 (SATB)

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 2

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

What Year 2 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method: Lacour, Vol. 2

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 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 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 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 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

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

5

Watch the video · 17 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/year-2/

Watch the video

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 2

Core Methods

Londeix, Exercices Mécaniques, 1er Cahier

Lacour, 50 Etudes Faciles, Vol. 2

Naulais, 30 Etudes Récréatives

Lacour, 100 Déchiffrages (Sight-reading exercises), Vol. 1

Additional Methods

Klosé, 25 Daily Exercises for Saxophone

Bois, 28 Etudes et Transpositions

Sorok, Etudes pour Saxophone

Londeix, Exercices Mécaniques, Vol. 2

Salviani-Iasilli, Exercises in All Practical Keys

Niehaus, Jazz Conception for Saxophone — Basique

Londeix, Les Gammes Conjointes et en Intervalles

Londeix, Le Détaché

Hite, Melodious and Progressive Studies for Saxophone, Book 1

Mule, Pièces Célèbres for Bb Soprano Saxophone

Mule, Pièces Célèbres for Eb Alto Saxophone

Mule, Scales and Arpeggios

Coker, Patterns for Jazz

Bosch Jr., Studies for Saxophone

Cottrell, The Saxophone

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 2

Core Repertoire

Meriot, Grisaille for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Truillard, Sérénade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Damase, Vacances for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Pascal, Planetarium for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Petit, Saxopera for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire

Albéniz, Tango for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ameller, Suite d'Après Rameau for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Antonini, Divertissement Tzigane for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Brown, Au fil du vent for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Gossec, Tambourin for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Five Famous Handel Sonatas for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Kisza, 10 Movements for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lancen, Légende Heureuse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lunde, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Meriot, Evasion for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Rameau, Rigaudon for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Saxophone Duet — Mozart, Romance for Alto Saxophones
Saxophone Duet — Leclair, Sonate pour 2 Saxophones
Tcherepnin, Sonatine Sportive for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Teal, Program Solos, Alto Saxophone and Piano

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

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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 · $\text{♩} = 60$

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

The Study of Saxophone · Year 3

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
Hovhaness, 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

The Study of Saxophone · Year 3

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 4

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

What Year 4 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
3. Performance of Etudes from selected method book(s)

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).

"This is a serious course in a serious conservatory, and unless you're gonna seriously engage, the conservatory is really not very impressed, and ... the backing and support and the endorsement of that student on the part of the conservatory is contingent upon their reciprocal engagement, following the recommendations of their teachers."

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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Scales: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Major keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Harmonic minor keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Diatonic 4ths: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

Exam requirement 1 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Diatonic 5ths: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · ♩ =60

Open in the app

6

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

7

Diatonic 4ths: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

8

Diatonic 5ths: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

Open in the app

9

Watch the video · 24 s
thewholehorn.com/curriculum/study-of-saxophone/year-4/

Watch the video

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 4

Core Methods

Meriot, 12 Etudes Atonales
Berbiguier, 18 Etudes Mélodiques
Busser, 12 Etudes Mélodiques
Decouais, 35 Etudes Techniques
Salviani-Iasilli, Exercises in All Practical Keys
Charlie Parker Omnibook

Additional Methods

Mintzer, 15 Easy Jazz Blues and Funk Etudes (Bb)
Rossari, 53 Melodious Etudes for Saxophone or Oboe
Niehaus, Developing Jazz Concepts
Ferling, 48 Etudes
Niehaus, Intermediate Jazz Conception for Saxophone
Niehaus, Jazz Conception for Saxophone Duets
Hite, Melodious Progressive Studies for Saxophone
Niehaus, Basic Jazz Conception, Vol. 2
Voxman, Selected Advanced Studies for Saxophone
Voxman, Selected Studies for Saxophone
Teal, Solos for the Alto Saxophone Player
Haerle, The Jazz Language Method

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 4

Core Repertoire

Koechlin, 15 Etudes for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bach, Suite d'Orchestre en Ut for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Histoires for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Jolivet, Fantasia Impromptu for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Lacour, Noctilienne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Alessandrini, Piazzolino for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire

Bitsch, Villageoise for SOLO Alto Saxophone
Bozza, Aria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Debussy, Saxophone Album for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Debussy, Syrinx for SOLO Saxophone
Eccles, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Françaix, Cinq Danses Exotiques — Baião for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Aria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Histoires for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ravel, Pièce en forme de Habanera for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tomasini, Introduction et Danse for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Whitney, Rumba for Alto Saxophone and Piano

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

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 · $\text{♩} = 60$ · 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

The Study of Saxophone Year 5

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

What Year 5 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Sight-Reading exam
2. Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
3. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
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).

"This is a serious course in a serious conservatory, and unless you're gonna seriously engage, the conservatory is really not very impressed, and ... the backing and support and the endorsement of that student on the part of the conservatory is contingent upon their reciprocal engagement, following the recommendations of their teachers."

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 diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

1

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Scales: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

2

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Major keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

3

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Arpeggios in the Harmonic minor keys: Tonic, then Dominant 7th · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

4

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Diatonic 4ths: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · $\text{♩} = 60$

Open in the app

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

5

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Diatonic 5ths: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · $\text{♩} = 60$

[Open in the app](#)

6

Exam requirement 2 · Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords
Diatonic 6ths: all 12 Major and Harmonic minor scales · $\text{♩} = 60$

[Open in the app](#)

7

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

[Open in the app](#)

Scales in the app

Exam: Performance of all Major and Harmonic minor scales to include diatonic 4ths, 5ths, 6ths and arpeggiated Tonic and Dominant 7th chords. Each link opens in The Whole Horn, written for the student's own saxophone.

8

Diatonic 4ths: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

[Open in the app](#)

9

Diatonic 5ths: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

[Open in the app](#)

10

Diatonic 6ths: all Major and Harmonic minor scales
all 12 keys · two octaves · ♩ =60

[Open in the app](#)

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 5

Core Methods

Ferling, 48 Famous Studies
Senon, 16 Rhythmic and Technical Exercises
Londeix, Sur les Gammes Conjointes
Ricker, Advanced Chord Etudes
Debondue, 50 Sight-Reading Etudes
Salviani-Iasilli, Exercises in All Practical Keys
Charlie Parker Omnibook

Additional Methods

Rae, 12 Modern Etudes for Saxophone
Mule, 18 Studies after Berbiguier
Lacour, 24 Etudes Atonales Faciles
Mule, 53 Etudes, Vol. 1
Niehaus, Advanced Jazz Conception for Saxophone (Sophomore)
Aebersold, ii-V7-I
Cannonball Adderley Solo Transcriptions
Mule, Cinquante-Trois Etudes, Pt. 1
Lacour, Douze Esquisses dans le Style Contemporain for SOLO Saxophone
Mule, Exercices Journaliers
List of 50 Easy Jazz Solos (to be transcribed by students)
Coker, The Complete Method for Improvisation
Baker, The Jazz Style of John Coltrane

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 5

Core Repertoire

Handel, Sonate en Sol mineur for Soprano Saxophone and Piano
Williams, Rhapsodie for Tenor Saxophone and Piano
Tcherepnin, Sonatine Sportive for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Calmel, Sonate d'Automne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Mazurka for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Sauguet, Bucolique for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire

Bach, Cello Suite No. 1 — Prélude arranged for SOLO Alto Sax (Sophomore)
Bach, Cello Suite No. 2 in All Keys — Treble Clef
Bach, Partita for SOLO Saxophone BWV 1013
Bach, Sonata No. 6 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bonneau, Pièce Concertante for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Demersseman, Fantaisie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Sonata Op. 1 No. 13 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Handel, Sonata Op. 1 No. 15 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Maslanka, Song Book for Alto Saxophone and Marimba
Telemann, 12 Flute Fantasias for SOLO Alto Saxophone

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

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

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 7

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

What Year 7 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Sight-Reading exam
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano or Solo Saxophone
3. Performance of a piece chosen by the saxophonist (Year 7 and above)

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).

"4 to 5 hours a day is what the expectation would be for those degrees anywhere in the world, and that should be the standard, and ... it gets progressively more serious."

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

1

Practice this year in The Whole Horn

Open in the app

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

Core Methods

Porret, 24 Déchiffrages (B)
Sousman, 30 Grands Exercices en 2 Cahiers
Piazzolla, Tango Etudes
Rousseau, High Tones for Saxophone
Seffer, Improvisations et Modes — Etudes sur des Modes Grecs

Additional Methods

Bozza/Mule, 12 Etudes Caprices
28 Etudes on Modes with Limited Transpositions (after Messiaen)
Reeves, Creative Jazz Improvisation
Londeix, Hello Mr. Sax
Londeix, Les Gammes Conjointes et en Intervalles
Coker, Patterns for Jazz

Methods in the app

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

1

Seffer, Improvisations et Modes — Etudes sur des Modes Grecs

Greek modes: Ionian and Dorian, all 12 keys · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app (the etudes are in the book)

Open in the app

2

Seffer, Improvisations et Modes — Etudes sur des Modes Grecs

Greek modes: Phrygian and Lydian, all 12 keys · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app (the etudes are in the book)

Open in the app

3

Seffer, Improvisations et Modes — Etudes sur des Modes Grecs

Greek modes: Mixolydian and Aeolian, all 12 keys · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app (the etudes are in the book)

Open in the app

4

Seffer, Improvisations et Modes — Etudes sur des Modes Grecs

Greek modes: Locrian, all 12 keys · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app (the etudes are in the book)

Open in the app

5

28 Etudes on Modes with Limited Transpositions (after Messiaen)

Messiaen's modes 1 and 2: whole-tone and diminished (half-whole) · ♩ =60 · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

Core Repertoire

Milhaud, Scaramouche for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Glazounov, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Naules, Frissons for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tomasi, Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bach, 5ème Sonate No. 52 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Faillenot, Rhapsodie Occitane for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire (1 of 2)

Absil, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Anderson, Sonata for Baritone Saxophone and Piano
Bach, Sonata in A minor for Solo Flute
Badings, Malinconia for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bonneau, Caprice en Forme de Valse for SOLO Saxophone
Boutry, Divertimento for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Concertino for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Improvisation et Caprice for SOLO Saxophone
Cowell, Air and Scherzo for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Creston, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Daneels, Suite for SOLO Saxophone
Debussy, Rapsodie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Circus Parade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Pièces Caractéristiques en Forme de Suite for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Sonate for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Eychenne, Sextet including Alto Saxophone (Chamber Ensemble)
Gotkovsky, Brilliance for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Grundman, Concertante for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Heiden, Diversion for Alto Saxophone and Band
Husa, Elégie et Rondeau for Alto Saxophone
Ibert, Concertino da Camera for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Karg-Elert, 25 Capricen und Sonate for SOLO Saxophone
Koechlin, Sonatine, Op. 194/2, for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

Additional Repertoire (2 of 2)

Marcello, Oboe Concerto for SOLO Soprano Saxophone
Martin, Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Maslanka, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Maurice, Tableaux de Provence for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Morosco, Blue Caprice for SOLO Alto Saxophone (Classical and Jazz)
Muczynski, Sonata, Op. 29, for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Pascal, Sonatine for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Planel, Suite Romantique for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Robert, Cadenza for SOLO Alto Saxophone
Rueff, Chanson et Passepied for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Rueff, Sonata (Leduc) for SOLO Alto Saxophone
Ryo Noda, Improvisations for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ryo Noda, Mai for SOLO Saxophone
Scelsi, Tre Pezzi for SOLO Saxophone
Schmitt, Légende for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Schulhoff, Hot Sonate for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Singelée, Fantasia, Op. 89, for Soprano Saxophone and Piano
Smith, Fantasia for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tcherepnin, Sonatine Sportive for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tomasì, Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Veidhuis, Grab It for SOLO Tenor Saxophone
Villa-Lobos, Fantasia for Saxophone and Small Orchestra
Williams, Escapades for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Yuyama, Divertimento for Marimba and Alto Saxophone

The Year 7 Diploma (Licence)

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

Dissertation

5,000-word dissertation on all things related to the instrument. The precise subject will be imposed by the instructor. (12 pages maximum.)

The recital program

A recital program (to be imposed by the instructor) must include:

Two pieces written for Saxophone and Piano

One work for Solo Saxophone

One work for Musique de Chambre (Chamber Music)

A Contemporary Work for Saxophone incorporating modern techniques: multiphonics, harmonics, contemporary techniques, and written instructions for unusual sounds and effects specific to the saxophone

A Technical, Atonal Etude

The Year 7 Diploma (Licence) in the app

The Study of Saxophone · Year 7

1

A Contemporary Work for Saxophone incorporating modern techniques: multiphonics, harmonics, contemporary techniques, and written instructions for unusual sounds and effects specific to the saxophone
Harmonics: Overtones & voicing (the harmonics half of this line; the work itself is repertoire)

Open in the app

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](#)

The whole course

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 8

Jazz Studies & Ensemble Leadership · Second Higher Cycle (Years 8 and 9). A Nine-Year Course of Study for the Modern Saxophonist-Doubler — Saxophone, Flute & Clarinet.

What Year 8 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Sight-Reading exam
2. Performance of a Chamber Music composition directed by the saxophonist
3. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano
4. Performance of Etudes from selected method: Boehm

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

1

Practice this year in The Whole Horn

Open in the app

Methods

The Study of Saxophone · Year 8

Core Methods

Fürstenau/Mule, 53 Etudes d'Après Boehm (en 3 Cahiers)

Lacour, 28 Etudes sur les Modes à Transposition

Françoise, 22 Déchiffrages

Additional Methods

Bozza, 12 Etudes Caprices for Saxophone

Caravan, Preliminary Exercises and Etudes in Contemporary Techniques for Saxophone

Methods in the app

The Study of Saxophone · Year 8

1

Lacour, 28 Etudes sur les Modes à Transposition

Messiaen's modes 1 and 2: whole-tone and diminished (half-whole) · $\text{♩} = 60$ · full range · Full Studio; two octaves on the free app

Open in the app

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 8

Core Repertoire

Maurice, Tableaux de Provence for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Sancan, Lamento et Rondo for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tomasi, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Divertissement for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Desenclos, Prélude, Cadence et Final for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Ibert, Prélude for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Additional Repertoire (1 of 2)

Ackermans, Petite Fantaisie Italienne for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Albright, Sonata for Saxophone and Piano
Berio, Sequenza IXb for SOLO Alto Saxophone
Bolcom, Lilith for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bonneau, Suite for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Aria for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Charpentier, Gavambodi 2 for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Decruck, Sonata Ut for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Demersseman, Carnaval de Venise for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Denisov, Concerto Piccolo for 4 Saxophones Successive and Percussion
Denisov, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Desenclos, Prélude, Cadence et Finale for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Dubois, Saxophone Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Feld, Elégie for Soprano Saxophone and Piano

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 8

Additional Repertoire (2 of 2)

Grovlez, Sarabande et Allegro for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Hindemith, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Ibert, Concertino da Camera for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Koch, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Larsson, Konsert for Alto Saxophone and String Orchestra

Laube, Steady Study on the Boogie for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Mackey, Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Wind Orchestra

Martin, Ballade for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Maslanka, Concerto for Saxophone Quartet — Saxophone Quartet

Stockhausen, In Freundschaft for SOLO Saxophone

Tomasi, Evocations for SOLO Alto Saxophone

Woods, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Yoshimatsu, Fuzzy Bird Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano

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](#)

The whole course

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

The Study of Saxophone Year 9

Master's Degree ("Maîtrise") · Second Higher Cycle (Years 8 and 9). Year 9 is the culmination of the program. The student at this level is expected to function at a professional performance standard, to have a defined artistic voice, and to be capable of leading ensembles, presenting solo recitals, and contributing to the field. A Nine-Year Course of Study for the Modern Saxophonist-Doubler — Saxophone, Flute & Clarinet.

What Year 9 asks

EXAM REQUIREMENTS

1. Performance of a Chamber Music composition directed by the saxophonist
2. Performance of selected piece for Saxophone and Piano or Solo Saxophone
3. Performance of Orchestra Extracts for Saxophone

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).

"4 to 5 hours a day is what the expectation would be for those degrees anywhere in the world, and that should be the standard, and ... it gets progressively more serious."

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

1

Practice the Seventh & Eighth Year routine

Open in the app

Methods and Repertoire

Core Methods

Loyon, 32 Etudes
Paganini, 24 Caprices
Londeix, Gammes et Modes
Debondue, 48 Etudes for Sight-reading
Ricker, 12 Virtuoso Jazz Etudes

Core Repertoire

Desenclos, Prélude, Cadence et Final for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Gostkowski, Variations Pathétiques for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Beugniot, Sonate for Alto Saxophone and Piano

Repertoire

The Study of Saxophone · Year 9

Additional Repertoire

Albright, Sonata for Saxophone and Piano
Bozza, Pièce Brève for SOLO Saxophone
Debussy, Rapsodie for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Denisov, Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Denisov, The Influence of Jazz Elements on Edison Denisov's Sonata (analytical study)
Dressel, Partita for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Glazunov, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Martin, Ballade for Alto Saxophone
Maslanka, Concerto for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Maslanka, Guide to Maslanka Saxophone Sonata (analytical study)
Milhaud, Scaramouche for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Schmitt, Légende for Alto Saxophone and Piano
Tomasi, Concerto — Saxophone Choir

The whole course

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