



**Conservatorium
van Amsterdam
Jazz Department**



The main purpose of the Jazz programme is to educate young, gifted students to become strong, independent and original musicians, who can perform, teach and write and above all shape their own musical future. To enable them to do this in a highly competitive environment, we must be critical towards the students, but even more towards ourselves.

**Ruud van Dijk, Vice-Director,
Head of the Jazz and Popular Music Department**





Bachelor's Degree Programme

Principal private lessons allow students to develop their technique, musicality and improvisational skills. Subjects like ear training, analysis, harmony and music history help students to hone their creative ability and musical ear. The theory programme is based on an approach focusing on the idiom of jazz and jazz-related music, resulting in a unique, practically oriented programme.

Contemporary music is a main focus, as is the ensemble programme, which gives students opportunities to build up practical experience, stimulates their creativity and guarantees a seamless transition to the professional world. As a result, graduates have no problem handling the various styles commonly associated with their instrument. There is a vast selection of ensembles from which to choose: these include, on the one hand, the so-called style-specific ensembles like jazz octets, jazz trios with vocalist or instrumental soloist, improvisation ensembles, big bands, flamenco, Latin rhythm sections, Brazilian and various cross-over groups; and, on the other hand, instrument-specific groups like guitar ensembles, bass guitar ensembles, saxophone ensembles, trombone ensembles and two jazz choirs. Later in the programme, students can also form their own groups and choose a teacher to oversee the group.

The 2 O'Clock and 5 O'Clock Big Band rehearse weekly. Several times a year, these are at the heart of interesting projects with leading arrangers and conductors from the Netherlands and other countries such as Jim McNeely, Justin DiCioccio, Bert Joris, Michael Abene and Nailor Proveta. The Concert Big Band performs regularly at venues in and outside the conservatory such as the Bimhuis and the North Sea Jazz Festival.

Students are given ample freedom to explore their own personal interests and may play in more than one ensemble or focus on world music, improvisation, live electronics, studio technique or subsidiary instruments related to their principal subject. They may also elect to gain deeper insight into theory or education.

The special combination of departments at the Amsterdamse Hogeschool voor de Kunsten allows students to become acquainted with other arts-related degree programmes such as theatre, dance, film, the visual arts and architecture. After their propaedeutic year, students can explore in greater depth many subjects via the other AHK departments.

Master's Degree Programme

The Master's degree is a two-year programme and is open to the most talented students. The plan of study serves as an important foundation for the course; here, the student outlines his/her own choice of specialist field and the way in which he/she plans to achieve this goal, thereby adopting a personalized approach to the study programme. In addition to principal private lessons, students take electives, participate in ensembles and projects, and conduct an individual research project.

All instrumental and vocal principal subjects are offered at the Master's level. Additionally, the conservatory offers two specialist Master's programmes:

Composing for Film

in collaboration with the Netherlands Film and Television Academy
A high-level Master's degree programme for composers wishing to specialize in writing music for film and other audio-visual productions.

Theatre Singer/Singer-Performer

in collaboration with De Theaterschool

This new Master's degree programme offers talented singers and theatre students the opportunity to further develop, explore and specialize as theatre singers/singer-performers.

Joint European Master's Programme

Additionally, the conservatory is currently developing a Joint European Master's Programme in jazz performance in collaboration with the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris (France), Jazz-Institute Berlin (Germany), the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Department of Music (Norway) and Rhythmic Music Conservatory (Denmark).







Artists in Residence

The CvA has developed an outstanding Artist in Residence programme. For each department, an internationally acclaimed guest gives clinics, workshops, masterclasses and private lessons for one week at least once each year. The week concludes with a concert given by the Artist in Residence and the students. In addition to this, there is also an extensive one-day guest teacher programme. Recent Artists in Residence include pianist Joey Calderazzo; trumpeter Gerard Presencer; saxophonists Branford Marsalis, Mark Turner and Miguel Zenón; drummer Peter Erskine, and double bassist/arranger John Clayton.

Career Preparation

Thanks to our contacts in the world of broadcasting, at recording studios, in show business and new media, we can help students establish the contacts they need. Additionally, a special set of courses prepares students for the business aspects of the music industry.

Pedagogical subjects such as methodology,

pedagogy and an internship give students insight into establishing a private teaching studio and working in music education in general. To prepare future musicians for the organizational and business aspects of a rapidly changing professional world, a special degree programme has been developed: The Entrepreneurial Artist, a programme for resourceful artists, much of which students can organize themselves to reflect their own personal ambitions and career plans. Students may choose from three profiles, the first focusing on private teaching, the second on teaching mixed groups of students and the third on business and organizational aspects. Specialist guest teachers are invited to teach a portion of the lessons.

Junior Jazz College

Young talented jazz musicians aged 12 to 18 may enrol in the Junior Jazz College, a joint initiative of the CvA and Muziekschool Amsterdam. Students gain stage experience, learn to play as ensemble members and as soloists, become familiar with the jazz repertoire and master their instrument. They also take theory and ear-training courses, which thoroughly prepare them for the conservatory entrance examination. Students are



given free access to workshops and clinics as part of the conservatory's guest teachers and projects programme. The bands perform regularly at venues such as the Bimhuis and Paradiso and at competitions and festivals like North Sea Jazz Festival.

Summer Jazz Workshop

In July of each year, the CvA, in collaboration with the Manhattan School of Music, organizes the international Summer Jazz Workshop for professional jazz musicians. For one week, the participants in the Summer Jazz Workshop are given lessons, take part in workshops and masterclasses, attend lectures and concerts, and are given ample opportunity to play and jam with jazz musicians from all over the world. The lessons are given by teachers from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and the Manhattan School of Music under the direction of Justin DiCioccio.

Partnerships

The Conservatorium van Amsterdam Jazz Department has established exchange

programmes with Purchase College, State University of New York, Manhattan School of Music, New York, and Temple University (Philadelphia), in addition to numerous exchange opportunities in Europe. The conservatory also works with the Metropole Orchestra, the Bimhuis, the Dutch Jazz Orchestra and the Jazz Orchestra of the Concertgebouw.

Facilities

The new conservatory building is equipped with excellent facilities including the Amsterdam Blue Note – an attractive performance venue designed specially for jazz and pop concerts –, acoustically balanced practice rooms and state-of-the-art recording studios.

Keep an Eye Jazz Award

The Keep an Eye Jazz Award, a joint initiative of the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and the Keep an Eye Foundation, is an annual ensemble competition alternately for jazz students who study at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam and students from conservatories throughout Europe.

'I have had the pleasure of being a guest artist and conductor at the Amsterdam Conservatory for nine years, and have found that the students' level of performance, interest, dedication, commitment and energy are of the highest order. The Amsterdam Conservatory Jazz Program offers a wholly integrated jazz environment, comprising study, research, and immersing students in the aural jazz tradition and historical musical context and culture. This program is of the utmost importance and relevance in today's musical world. 'The Amsterdam Conservatory jazz Project' as I call it, is setting a new standard for jazz performance, composition, musical knowledge and understanding in our contemporary global society. I highly recommend the Amsterdam Conservatory Jazz program without any reservation.'

Justin DiCioccio,

Assistant Dean Chairman Jazz Arts program
Manhattan School of Music



Faculty

bass guitar

Charly Angenois
Jan Hollestelle
Theo de Jong
David de Marez Oyens
Lené te Voortwisp

composition/arranging

Jurre Haanstra
Henk Huizinga

double bass

Arnold Dooyeweerd
Frans van der Hoeven
Ruud Ouwehand
Ernst Glerum

drums

Gerhard Jeltens
Lucas van Merwijk
Marcel Serierse
Martijn Vink

guitar

Maarten van der Grinten
Martijn van Iterson
Peter Mingaars
Martien Oster
Jesse van Ruller
Henk Sprenger
Erik Vaarzon Morel
(flamenco)

percussion

Bart Fermie
Lucas van Merwijk

piano

Karel Boehlee
Rob van Bavel
Kris Goessens
Hans Vroomans

theory of music

Barbara Bleij
Clemens Kemme
Henk Huizinga

saxophone

Ferdinand Povel
Albert Beltman
Jasper Blom
Dick Oatts
(regular guest teacher)

trombone/bass trombone

Erik van Lier
Bert Boeren
Martijn Sohier
Jilt Jansma

trumpet

Jan Oosthof
Ruud Breuls

voice

Frans Lambour
Lydia van Dam
Eileen Fiss
Sylvia Langelaan
Gé Titulaer
Annett Andriesen
Lieve Geuens
Josee Koning
Eva Baggerman (choirs)

additional ensemble teachers

Berend van den Berg
Randal Corsen
Yuri Honing
Ferial Karamat Ali
Tineke Postma

research

Walter van de Leur
(Professor of Jazz and
Improvised Music)

coordination of educational subjects and methodology

Frits Heimans

Ruud van Dijk
*Vice-Director, Head of
the Jazz & Popular Music
Department*
Bram Strijbis
Programme Coordinator
Sigrid Paans
Producer

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(page 3, 10); Hanne Nijhuis

The Jazz Department at the Conservatorium van Amsterdam

What can you, as an up-and-coming musician, expect from a jazz school? You want to learn there how to swing and improvise even better than you do now. You should get support while finding your personal way of playing. And, after the final exam, you want to be ready to enter the highly competitive music business.

For all this, you won't find a better place than the Conservatorium van Amsterdam – the Netherlands' largest and most multifaceted school of music. 'Jazz' in Amsterdam means everything from bebop to Afro-Cuban music and from r & b to fusion.

The Jazz Department stimulates students to be adventurous, all the while providing them with a solid technical and theoretical background.

In Amsterdam, musicians from various backgrounds are working hard for just one thing: to make you sound good.

Jeroen de Valk

**A jazz writer since the 70s,
De Valk's books have been published internationally.**

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