

Lectures, Workshops and Master Classes

Jere Laukkanen is available for lectures, workshops or master classes under the following topics, a.o.:

Jazz Composition, including e.g.:

- compositional methods
- the history and evolution of Jazz Composition
- stylistic exercises
- melody writing
- jazz counterpoint
- jazz harmony and chord voicings
- jazz and other African-American rhythm
- group and orchestra line-ups and orchestration
- composer's knowledge of working life

Arranging, including e.g.:

- instruments and their characteristics
- group and orchestra line-ups and orchestration
- rhythm
- melodic manipulation
- jazz counterpoint
- writing background elements
- tonal/modal harmony (chord voicings, reharmonization)
- forms and structures
- arranger's knowledge of working life

Songwriting, including e.g.:

- tools and methods of Songwriting
- analysis of popular songs
- song forms and verse structures
- melody writing
- rhythm
- harmonization
- lyric writing
- documentation of the song (leadsheets, lyrics, demo recordings)
- songwriter's knowledge of working life

African-American Rhythm (general), including e.g.:

- the history, evolution and special characteristics of African-American Rhythm
- articulation and phrasing in jazz and other African-American music styles (incl. interpretation and stressing in different tempi and stylistic eras, time-feel)
- the Rhythmic Keys
- rhythm reading using pattern recognition techniques
- additive and divisive rhythm
- meters (common, odd, non-western, changing)
- "tuplets" and polyrhythm
- polymeter
- metric modulation
- contrapuntal rhythm
- comping and improvisation

Jazz Rhythm, including e.g.:

- the history, evolution and special characteristics of Jazz Rhythm

- jazz articulation and phrasing (incl. interpretation and stressing in different tempi and stylistic eras, time-feel)
- the Rhythmic Keys
- rhythm reading using pattern recognition techniques
- additive and divisive rhythm
- meters (common, odd, non-western, changing)
- "tuplets" and polyrhythm
- polymeter
- metric modulation
- contrapuntal rhythm
- comping and improvisation

Afro-Cuban Rhythm, including e.g.:

- the history, evolution and special characteristics of Afro-Cuban Rhythm
- the Clave patterns, their derivatives and patterns based on different Clave rhythms
- Afro-Cuban dance grooves
- phrasing and articulation
- song forms and structures
- additive and divisive rhythm
- meters
- "tuplets" and polyrhythm
- polymeter
- metric modulation
- contrapuntal rhythm
- comping and improvisation

Music Analysis and Writing, including e.g.:

- chord/scale theory and analysis
- analysis of melodic form and axis and non-chordal notes and figures
- analysis of rhythm
- melody writing
- rhythm
- principles of voice leading ("classical" and jazz)
- harmonization and reharmonization
- chord voicings and voice leading
- sectional harmonization techniques

Ear Training and Sight Singing, including e.g.:

- scale degrees and intervals
- keys and modulations
- tonal and modal scales
- tonal/modal pop/jazz harmony
- rhythm
- improvisation

Jazz Improvisation, including e.g.:

- the principles and methodology of Jazz Improvisation
- the stylistic eras of jazz music from an improviser's point of view
- song and chord structures ("vehicles")
- scales and their derived fragments: tritonics, tetra- and pentachords; chords (arpeggios and superimposition)
- digital patterns, approach etc. figures
- writing improvised lines
- jazz rhythm, articulation and phrasing and the Rhythmic Keys
- out-going devices
- vocal improvisation

Jazz Ensemble, including e.g.:

- ensemble interplay
- articulation, phrasing and time-feel
- the characteristics and roles of different instruments within the ensemble
- interpretation, comping and improvisation in different tempi and stylistic eras
- choosing, adapting and elaborating of the jazz repertoire etc.

Big Band (Jazz Orchestra), including e.g. (according to the chosen repertoire):

- history of Big Bands and Big Band music
- rehearsing the repertoire
- band interplay
- articulation, phrasing and time-feel
- the characteristics and roles of different instruments and instrument sections within the band
- dynamics and section balance
- tuning and intonation
- interpretation, comping and improvisation in different tempi and stylistic eras

Pop/jazz Music Pedagogics, including e.g.:

- methods of teaching and learning
- pedagogic approaches
- development of instructional materials
- curriculum subjects and their integration, etc.

The duration of a lecture, workshop or master class can be anything between two hours and one week, depending of the scope and the desired contents of the chosen subject(s). All the presentations include lots of instructional material (as PowerPoint presentations etc.), handouts and listening examples, and the workshops and master classes also include plenty of exercises or assignments to be handed out for the students. All the presentations can be given either in English or in Finnish.

Completed lectures, workshops, master classes and educational ensemble projects

Detailed descriptions of the following completed presentations, plus samples of instructional material, if needed, are available via email from Jere Laukkanen (see address below):

The Roots and History of Jazz (abridged) (lecture)

- reference: Aalto University November 2009, November 2010, November 2011

Jazz Composition (lecture)

- Berklee College of Music (Boston, USA), October 2009

Chord/Scale Theory (lecture)

- Imatra Big Band Summer Course, July 2006

History of Big Band Music (lecture)

- Imatra Big Band Summer Course, July 2006

Jazz Polyrhythm and Polymeter (lecture/workshop)

- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn, March 2006

Great Big Band Jazz Compositions of All Time (Big Band ensemble project)

- including the music of Fletcher Henderson, Count Basie Orchestra, Duke Ellington, Thad Jones, Gil Evans etc. as original arrangements
- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn, Feb.-Mar. 2006

The African-American Rhythm and the History and Evolution of Jazz Rhythm (lecture)

- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn, Feb. 2006

The Rhythmic Keys and the Concept of Swing (lecture/workshop)

- Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, Tallinn, Feb. 2006

Special Characteristics of Rhythm in the African-American Music Tradition (lecture)

- Sibelius-Academy, April 2005

The Reincarnation of the Cool (ensemble project)

- the music of Miles Davis' "Birth of the Cool" nonet as original arrangements
- Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia, Oct. 2004

Vocal Jazz Improvisation (master class)

- IASJ Conference, Freiburg, Germany May-June 2004

The Afro-Cuban Rhythmic Tradition (lecture)

- Imatra Big Band Summer Course, July 2003

Afro-Cuban Ensemble (ensemble workshop)

- line-up: 2–5 wind instr., (vocalist), piano, (guitar), bass, Afro-Cuban percussion
- the National Pop & Jazz Summer Camp 1997–2003

Mucho Machito (Big Band ensemble project)

- the music of Machito and his Afro-Cubans as original arrangements
- Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia, Dec. 2002

What is Arranging? (lecture)

- The Communicaid Group, London, England, Aug. 2002; Helsinki Polytechnic Stadia, Sept. 2001

¡Big Band Salsa! (Big Band ensemble project)

- Afro-Cuban music for Big Band
- Jyväskylä Big Band 2002, Rovaniemi Big Band 1997, Pop & Jazz Conservatory 1996, a.o.

Contact:

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