

Double Bass Curriculum

Michael Bowie, Bass Instructor
Duke Ellington School

Freshman

Methods:

Simandl Book 1
Bert Witzel - Scales for the Double Bass
Sturm Etudes

Technique:

- Open string sound production.
- Bow technique.
- Half - 3rd position.
- Shape of both hands.
- Proper sitting or standing posture.
- Basic rhythms of common time quarter notes, half notes
- 1 octave major scales - C, G, D, F, Bb, Eb, Ab, Db
- 1 octave minor scales (all forms) - A, E, B, D, G, C, F, Bb
- Shifting technique
- Slurring, staccato bowing
- Rhythms - combining quarter and eighths

Repertoire:

Yorke 35 easy solos
Various

Sophomore

Methods and Etudes:

Simandl Book 1
Bert Witzel - Scales for the Double Bass
Sturm - 110 Studies Op. 20 For Bass
Storch-Hrabe - 57 Etudes

Technique:

- Slurring across strings.
- Including 2nd - 5th position along with previously learned positions
- Using the universal pattern for all scales.
- Begin scales in intervals, 3rds using Simandl book,
- Development of mature practice habits through mental and physical discipline and organization.
- Hooked bowings
- All 2 octave scales with arpeggios, major and minor keys

Repertoire:

Vance Progressive Repertoire Vol 1 - 2

Marie Dare - Minuet

John Merle (Festival Performance Solos)

Hartley - Orchestral Solos Book 1

Marcello - Sonata in E minor

Various

Junior

Methods and Etudes:

Bert Witzel - Scales for the Double Bass

Sturm - 110 Studies Op. 20 For Bass

Storch-Hrabe - 57 Etudes

Various

Technique:

- Slurring across strings.
- Finish learning positions through octave harmonics
- Continue scales in intervals, 4ths and 5ths
- Bow variations – using Simandl p. 69 as applied to scales
- Scales in 2 octaves: all
- Bow control, varying speed and weight.
- Fingering concepts with dotted rhythm, applying to scales.
- Elementary thumb positions.
- Connecting the neck and thumb positions
- 3 octave scales

Repertoire:

Vance Progressive Repertoire Vol 2 - 3
Bach (various)
Bottesini/Zimmerman - Elegy
Dragonetti/Nanny - Concerto
Marcello - Sonatas
Various

Senior

Methods and Etudes:

Bert Witzel - Scales for the Double Bass
Sturm - 110 Studies Op. 20 For Bass
Storch-Hrabe - 57 Etudes
Various

Technique:

- Phrasing
- 3 octave scales
- Ensemble skills (Classic and Modern Duets) and performing with piano
- Advanced bowing patterns (Sevcik)
- Varying bow speeds Galamian scale patterns

Repertoire:

Marais – Five French Dances
Vivaldi – Sonata in A Minor
Verdi – Solo from Rigoletto (from Simandl book 1)
Bach – Minuets from Suite No. 1 (in C, such as Sterling edition)
Faure – Apres Un Reve
Capuzzi – Concerto
A. Russell – Chaconne

****** Senior recital hearing in January (12 minute min)/ recital in the Spring**

Office hours:

Days: M - F

Time: 3pm - 3:30pm