

MUSIC AND PERFORMING ART

The John Jay Performing Arts Department is a place where students express their creativity and learn to live a full life. There are two choral ensembles, three bands and two orchestras in the ensemble program and we offer a four-year sequence in Actor training. Our General Music curriculum offers courses in Theory, History, Composition and Music Technology.

Concert Choir

1 yr 1 cr

(With instructor's permission – ½ cr – full year – alt. days)

The John Jay Concert Choir is the primary performing choral ensemble in the high school. The focus of the ensemble is the development of an exceptional choral sound employing vocal techniques. No audition is required for acceptance into this performance group. Students are expected to maintain good rehearsal attendance and attitude. There are two to three required performances. Group lessons may also be part of the curriculum and meet on a rotating basis throughout the year.

John Jay Chorale

1 yr 1 cr

The John Jay Chorale is the premiere choral performance ensemble of the school. This group is made up of 52 to 60 students who audition for the ensemble every spring for the following year. The repertoire is made up of level 4 through level 6 music focusing on a broad repertoire of music from the 15th century through the present day. Students are expected to perform in a variety of languages and there are several required performances in the school and community. Group lessons are part of the curriculum and meet on a rotating basis throughout the year. **Audition required prior to registering for this course.**

Concert Band

1 yr 1 cr

(With instructor's permission- ½ cr.-full yr.-alt days)

This group will be comprised of all incoming 9th grade students not auditioning for Wind Ensemble. This course will introduce the 9th grade student to the high school band program and focus on developing individual skills and ensemble techniques through rehearsal and small group lessons. This group performs a minimum of twice annually.

Symphonic Band

1 yr 1 cr

(With instructor's permission- ½ cr.-full yr.-alt days)

Symphonic Band will include all band students in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. No audition is required to register. This course will build on the performance and rehearsal skills introduced in Concert Band. Group lessons are part of the course and meet throughout the year on a rotating basis. This group performs a minimum of twice annually.

Wind Ensemble

1 yr 1cr

This group is the most advanced band available to students at the high school and is the premiere wind and percussion ensemble of the school. The focus is on advanced literature, ensemble techniques, and individual development through rehearsal, performance, and small group instruction. Home practice expectations are significantly above average. Group lessons are part of the course and meet throughout the year on a rotating basis. This group has performed and competed at many festivals from Florida to Lincoln Center. **Audition required prior to registering for this course.**

Symphonic Orchestra

1 yr 1 cr

(Brass, wind & percussion students accepted to the orchestra - ½ cr.-full yr.-alt. days)
The John Jay Symphony Orchestra is a full symphonic ensemble offered to high school students. Repertoire includes works of the great masters in both original and transcribed arrangements. This orchestra is made up of students who audition for the ensemble every spring for the following year. Students are also afforded the opportunity to perform in a variety of smaller chamber ensembles and learn the music and perform with the students in the String Orchestra program. The ensemble may participate in the NYSSMA major organization festival and students are encouraged to prepare solos for the NYSSMA solo festival. **Audition required before registering for this course.**

String Orchestra every day

1 yr 1 cr

String Orchestra students will perform repertoire from the standard literature while developing technique and musicality. This ensemble performs two concerts each year and group lessons are part of the curriculum. There is no audition required for registration and students of all ability levels are encouraged to participate.

Music History and Theory

1 yr 1cr

This course, held in the Mac music lab, trains students in reading, writing, and understanding music in a hands-on learning environment. In addition to learning basic music theory, within a historical context, the course progresses to include complex and creative tasks such as melodic and harmonic dictation, composition and arranging, as well as analysis and discussion of musical styles. Learning is focused around the use of technology where students will gain experience using software programs such as *Finale, Garage Band, Logic, and Ableton Live 9*. This course will help students express their creativity through independent and collaborative work throughout the year. **This course is a prerequisite for students wishing to enroll in Music Technology and AP Music Theory.**

Advanced Placement Music Theory

1 yr 1 cr

Students in AP Music Theory will follow a curriculum created by the staff and adopted by the College Board. Additional areas of study may include composition and arranging. Prerequisite: Music History and Theory or permission of the instructor.

Music Technology

1 yr 1 cr

A creatively driven course, students will learn the basics of MIDI and the history of Electronic Music in order to create their own music compositions. Film Scoring, Sonata writing, Remixing, and other Electronic music forms will be explored in this fun and engaging Mac music lab environment. This project based course, will allow students to write music using software programs such as: *Finale, Garage Band, Logic, and Ableton Live 9*. In addition, our Sound Recording component will teach students how to record live performances using our newly acquired recording equipment, sound booth and *Pro Tools* software. This course allows students to think independently and express themselves freely through the creative process. **Prerequisite: Completion of the Music History and Theory course or permission of the instructor.**

Advanced Study in Music Technology

1 yr 1 cr

Students who have completed at least one year of Music Technology may enroll again to pursue advanced, independent work in preparation for college and/or career readiness.

Introduction to Theatre

1 yr 1 cr

This is the introductory course for students interested in studying theatre at John Jay High School. The curriculum includes a historical survey and a firm grounding in the mechanics of theatre and how it affects our lives. Basic concepts of public speaking, stage direction, technical theatre and acting are included in the curriculum. This course is a prerequisite for students wishing to enter the acting and technical theatre courses at the high school. **This full year course fulfills the fine arts credit requirement for graduation.**

Acting (Meets Every Other Day)

1 yr ½ cr

Students interested in acting for the stage will receive a thorough grounding in acting techniques. The curriculum is experiential in nature and students are expected to participate in all aspects of the course. Study focuses on acting techniques developed by Uta Hagan utilizing the Method of Constantin Stanislavsky. Students will develop their technique through text work, writing, monologue and scene development and presentation, improvisation and other performance venues. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Theatre or permission of the instructor.**

Advanced Acting (Meets Every Other Day)

1 yr ½ cr

This course builds upon the skills developed in Acting. While the basics of good acting will continue to get attention, the actor approaching the writers and periods of Advanced Acting must be prepared to deal with extraordinary demands in the areas of text analysis, language and vocal production. We will focus on plays from these periods: Elizabethan and Jacobean (Shakespeare, Webster, Ford), Restoration and 18th Century (Wycherly, Sheridan, Goldsmith), Late 19th Century (Wilde, Shaw, Chekhov) and mid-

20th Century “Theater of the Absurd” (Beckett, Ionesco, Pinter, Albee). The curriculum is project based and requires independent study. Students will design and complete projects in stage presentations with the emphasis on all aspects of preparation for performance. **Prerequisite: Acting or permission of the instructor.**

Advanced Acting 2nd Year: The Actor’s Studio (Meets Every Other Day)

1 yr ½ cr

Seniors who have completed the Acting curricula can take this course. The curriculum is project based and set up in an independent study format. Students will design and complete projects in stage presentations with the emphasis on all aspects of preparation for performance, with a focus on directing, design and playwriting. A public performance is required and will serve as the primary assessment tool for the course. Involvement in the productions of the John Jay Theatre Workshop is required.

Prerequisite: Advanced Acting.

Lessons

The high school offers a lesson program that allows students to meet with their teacher in small groups during the school day. Attendance at lessons is not mandatory. Student will not have points deducted from their grade as a result of not attending lessons. Students who attend lessons tend to achieve better results in the ensemble setting. The school records music lessons as “educationally excused” absences. Students are responsible for any work done or due at the time of the lesson. Students may not schedule a lesson on the day of an assessment or if they are responsible for presenting to the class alone or in a group. Students should rotate their lesson schedule so that they do not miss the same class more than once a quarter. Students should check with their classroom teacher and turn in work or learn about assignments prior to attending a lesson.