ENSEMBLE VISION:

Jazz Sounds
WELCOME TO JAZZ SOUNDS

Ensemble Setup:
Jazz Sounds music is flexible and suitable for players of any instrument, including voice. Jazz Sounds is an open access band, and no audition is required. Open rehearsals are held at the beginning of each term, and you can register in advance using the form on our website.

Skill Set:
Typically, players in Jazz Sounds are keen musicians, with some experience of music reading and playing in a group.

Membership Commitment:
Jazz Sounds members are expected to commit to all rehearsal and performances in the period of time that they are a member, to arrive punctually and prepared for the rehearsal with their sheet music. Where attendance drops below acceptable levels (normally 90%) members may be asked to leave Jazz Sounds, and membership fees will not be refunded. We strongly encourage members to join for the whole academic year, or at least for a term. Music at Reading will issue the schedule of rehearsals and performances for all Music at Reading Ensembles before the start of the academic year in order that members can plan ahead to accommodate their membership commitments with other activities.

Musicianship:
In rehearsals, musicianship training focuses on developing and refining your skills. The ensemble director will determine musicianship content related to the repertoire played, the broad outline for Jazz Sounds is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Developing and Refining your Playing</th>
<th>Developing and refining your playing through technical exercises and physical work focused on breathing and posture to develop your sound and a range of different tone colours. Developing pitch and tonality awareness, focusing on effective intonation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble co-ordination</td>
<td>Refining your understanding of rhythm notation with a focus on delivering rhythmic feel in the music you’re learning to play. Building two and three part hearing through group rhythm, pitch and harmony exercises and games so the individual player may learn to work in the ensemble team</td>
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<tr>
<td>Repertoire</td>
<td>Exploring the idiosyncratic stylistic features of the repertoire that Jazz Sounds play.</td>
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**Leadership:**

Members of Jazz Sounds are encouraged to develop a reflective attitude towards their playing in order to understand their contribution to the ensemble. Throughout rehearsals and after performances, the Director will encourage members to reflect on their progress and their contribution to the group. Players will be given opportunities to be section leaders, and may also have solo opportunities, depending on repertoire.

**Musical Leaders:**

In the Spring term, Music at Reading invites members to apply for the Musical Leaders scheme. This is an enrichment programme for advanced performers keen to develop their skills in solo and ensemble performance, and ensemble directing. Musical Leaders are expected to be regular performing members of Music at Reading ensembles. They may choose to take additional leadership roles in their ensemble, such as sectional leader, soloist, and assistant conductor. In Jazz Sounds, this could include warming up the ensemble, leading technical exercises and musicianship work, running sectional rehearsals, and directing the band. It may also include playing written and improvised solos, and making arrangements for the band to perform.

Musical leaders will model appropriate behaviours in terms of punctuality, attendance, self-organisation and personal preparation in rehearsals and performance. Being a Musical Leader can contribute towards the University RED awards.