

## Exploring Jazz in six sessions (Oct. 28 -- Dec. 2, 2019)

I taught a course called "Exploring Jazz" in California during the winters for 10 years. It was successful beyond what I could have imagined with a combined enrollment of more than 2,000 adult students. In Fall 2017 I brought Exploring Jazz into my own music room in Newton Highlands for an intimate group of 32 participants. Then there was a second session In April/May 2018. Another in the Fall, 2018. I am now offering a fourth session of the same course for October/November 2019, and you are invited to join.

Each class has a lot of “active listening” (on recordings, video, and demonstrations on my piano) in order to hear more deeply what is going on in the music. The course also emphasizes the ways in which jazz is an African American musical response to the conditions black Americans have had to deal with throughout our history.

Below please find

- (1) the schedule for the October/November 2019 sessions,
- (2) links to the syllabus, which explains in some detail what the course covers, and my BIO
- (3) At the end of this email are comments from participants in previous classes in Newton:

Schedule: Six classes on Monday evenings 7:30 - 9:10

Location: 94 Woodward Street, Newton Highlands.

NOTE: You will need to walk down a flight of stairs to the music room, which is a finished room with large digital screen, excellent sound system, and a grand piano. (Lots of on-street parking; < 5 min. walk from the Green Line D train, Eliot Station.)

### DATES:

Oct. 28 7:30 — 9:10 [attendance for the first class is extremely important.]  
Nov. 4 7:30 — 9:10, Nov 11 7:30 — 9:10 Nov. 18 7:30 — 9:10,  
Nov. 25 7:30 — 9:10 Dec. 2 7:30 -- 9:10)

Cost: The cost is \$140 per person or \$250 for a couple. If you want to enroll, email me at [lenlyons@comcast.net](mailto:lenlyons@comcast.net). Yes, you can change your mind later; I won't be asking for a firm commitment until the last week in September. (Please do not send money at this time.)

Syllabus:

[https://lenlyons.ink/uploads/7/7/2/1/77216329/exploring\\_jazz\\_syllabus\\_-\\_fall\\_2019.pdf](https://lenlyons.ink/uploads/7/7/2/1/77216329/exploring_jazz_syllabus_-_fall_2019.pdf)

Instructor BIO and "Exploring Jazz" overview:

<https://lenlyons.ink/exploring-jazz.html>

TO Pre-ENROLL send email to [lenlyons@comcast.net](mailto:lenlyons@comcast.net)

Len's web site: ([www.lenlyons.ink](http://www.lenlyons.ink))

Some comments from participants in my "Exploring Jazz" classes in Newton:

“Len Lyons makes the language, history, and evolution of jazz surprisingly accessible. Only basic musical knowledge is required to come away from this course able to recognize and understand what you are hearing and where it fits in the universe of jazz.” - David Flad

Len Lyons' jazz class is a masterpiece. He loves jazz and brings that enthusiasm to the class along with a deep well of both historical and musical knowledge. He expertly combines social history, musical history, and explanations of the music itself, all richly illustrated by lots of listening. Listening to music I have loved all my adult life has become a new, and richer, experience. - Jonathan Klein

" Len gives a great class. He helps the casual listener understand what the musicians are up to, and how to listen with greater understanding and appreciation of jazz's structure and evolution. Perhaps the best part is listening to Len's demonstrations on the piano.” - Dahlia Rudavsky

Len’s passion, knowledge, and personality made this class really enjoyable and I would highly recommend it to any music lover who has a yearning to learn about the history of Jazz - Steven Siagel

I absolutely loved Len Lyons’ “Exploring Jazz” class! He is extremely knowledgeable, articulate, and passionate about his subject. He gave us a sense of several styles that make up jazz, making the subject come alive through his well-considered selections of audios, videos, and demonstrations at the piano. I especially appreciated hearing about the intersection of the music and the socio-historical context in which they were born. - Heather Zacker