

Newpark Academy of Music

JAZZ BIG BAND COURSE 2026

Venue: *Newpark Academy of Music at IADT, Institute of Art, Design + Technology) Dun Laoghaire, Kill Ave, Woodpark, Orchard Suites, Dublin, A96 KH79*

Dates: June 29th – July 5th daily rehearsals from 1.00pm – 4:15pm
(*apart from Saturday 4th Rehearsal from 12-4:30pm*)

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

There is a vast musical and social history of jazz music and it's development, The Newpark Academy of Music continues to contribute to this ever changing and exciting musical genre. We are delighted to offer music students from all backgrounds the opportunity to apply for our 2026 Summer Big Band Jazz Camp. Students will establish a strong theoretical and stylistic foundation with regards to improvisation and performance within a Large Jazz Ensemble. There will be an emphasis on the development of the student's individual expression and creativity. The repertoire covered throughout the week will cover selected pieces from the Big Band era performed by Ellington, Basie and more. Led by the highly experienced Big Band Leader & Saxophonist **Brendan Doyle** the faculty will also include some of the leading exponents of Jazz music from Ireland, such as pianist **Scott Flanigan**, Trombonist **Krists Liepa** & Trumpeter **Michael Barkley**. The final evening of the camp will culminate with a concert at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Kilmainham. The NMA Big Band Camp is the only available summer course of its kind in Ireland and will give you the tools to improve your professional performance ability in an ensemble, increase playing opportunities in the future and create a unique networking environment within the music community.

DETAILS ON THE NMA BIG BAND SUMMER CAMP

- From Monday to Friday sessions will run for 3 hours from 1.00pm - 4:15pm. On Friday there will be a full-band rehearsal also from 1:00pm – 4:15pm. There will be a full band rehearsal finishing on Saturday 4th of July from 12-4:30pm.
- On Sunday 5th of July The NMA Big Band will perform an outdoor concert at the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Kilmmainham. The Concert will commence at 2pm for 1-hour and is Free to the public to attend.
- Good musical fundamentals will be taught involving listening to your section and across the ensemble.
- Musical Instruction will address lead playing, section playing, improvising, and understanding the “mapping” of a big band composition/arrangement.
- The goal is to have fun, work hard, improve a great deal, acquire new skills, and give you the opportunity to network and improve your performance abilities within a jazz orchestra/large jazz ensemble.
- **Course Fee:** The cost for the weeklong Camp is €355. The fee must be paid in full before the start date of the course. All charts, rhythm backline, music stands will be supplied by the Academy.

APPLYING TO THE BIG BAND SUMMER CAMP

The NMA Jazz Summer Camp welcomes junior musicians aged 15 and over, as well as adult participants. Applicants are expected to have a suitable musical background, relevant performance experience, and a strong commitment to the full course schedule and timetable.

Due to the specific instrumentation requirements of the Large Ensemble, places on the programme are limited. Admission is by audition, and the selection process is highly competitive. Thorough preparation is essential for success.

AUDITIONS & ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Due to the limited spaces available we ask that each student interested in participating attends Newpark Academy of Music on Saturday May 19th between 11am & 3.30pm, your audition time will be assigned to you in advance.

For those unable to attend, a recording of yourself playing is also acceptable. Your application must also include a current music CV giving detail on experience. The audition materials required are listed below and can be emailed to: jazz@newparkmusic.ie

- Recordings can be done by making a simple “voice memos” recording from your iPhone or android phone. In many cases the “voice memos” app is already included on the phone.

- You can often email the recording file directly from your phone or send to your computer and then attach it to an email. You can choose to use background tracks or play unaccompanied when making your recordings.
- **Recordings must be submitted by 5pm on May 19th.**
- Each musician will be asked to demonstrate their reading skills, awareness of jazz styles, comping skill (rhythm section) and improvising skill (optional).
- A short interview will be conducted with the adjudicating panel on completion of your performance.

Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, Guitar, Piano.

- **Play the melody:** A jazz standard of your choice. Preferably with a 32 bar form. Blues Heads are also accepted.
- **Improvising** : record a one chorus solo on the standard of your choosing and perform the melody once again afterwards. You can play unaccompanied or use a background track.
- In addition to the above feel free to demonstrate any Latin and/or $\frac{3}{4}$ tunes you wish. (*optional*)

RHYTHM SECTION

- Play “time” with a swing feel for 2 chorus’ of a blues (12 bar form) at $1/4\text{note} = 160$. You can play/record unaccompanied or use a bass track.
- Play “time” in a Bossa Nova style for 32 bars at $1/4\text{note} = 132$. You can play/record unaccompanied or use a background track.
- Using a 12-bar blues form, record 2 chorus’ as follows:
 - Chorus 1: time 4 bars/solo 4 bars/time 4 bars
 - Chorus 2: solo 4 bars/time 4 bars/solo 4 bars
- In addition to the above feel free to demonstrate any Latin and/or $3/4$ grooves you wish. (optional)

NEWPARK ACADEMY OF MUSIC

BIG BAND REHEARSAL DATES 2026

Rehearsal Venue: Newpark Academy of Music at IADT, Institute of Art, Design + Technology) Dun Laoghaire, Kill Ave, Woodpark, Orchard Suites, Dublin, A96 KH79

To facilitate the best learning experience individual sections will rehearse on different days. The following is a provisional timetable for the week:

Monday 29th of June 1pm - 4:15pm

***Horn Section* Only Rehearsal**

Tutor: Brendan Doyle

Tuesday 30th of June 1pm - 4:15pm

***Rhythm Section* Only Rehearsal**

Tutor Scott Flanigan

Wednesday 1st of July 1pm - 4:15pm

***Horn Section* Only Rehearsal**

Tutor: Brendan Doyle

Thursday 2nd of July 1 - 4:15pm

***Rhythm Section* Only Rehearsal**

Tutor: Scott Flanigan

Friday 3rd of July 1pm – 4:15pm

Full Band Rehearsal

Tutor: Brendan Doyle

Saturday 4th of July 12 – 4:30pm

Full Band* Rehearsal

Tutor: Brendan Doyle featuring

Guest Trumpet Michael Barkley,

Hammond Organist Scott Flanigan

Sunday 5th of July 2pm Soundcheck (1pm)

Concert at IMMA in Kilmainham with special guest Scott Flanigan. Concert is at 2pm. White Shirt / Black Tie & Trousers. Free to the Public.

Tuition Fees of €355 must be paid in advance of the start date of the course. No Refunds.

For further enquiries contact Kevin at: jazz@newparkmusic.ie