

Questions to Ask in Masterclasses

- Was there a specific musician, recording, or live performance that inspired you to want to play music for a living?
- What are your top three favorite recordings? (Jazz, classical, or other)
- What musical artist(s) inspire you most, both as a student and as a professional?
- Is there a musician that is lesser known, who you listen to and try to emulate?
- To date, what has been your favorite or best performance that you've been a part of?
- To date, what has been the worst gig you've been a part of?
- Have you had any setbacks in your career? And how have you handled, and overcome those setbacks?
- What solo do you think all jazz musicians should transcribe?
- Have you had a mentor that helped you during your career?
- What jazz icon have you gotten to see live? Can you tell us about that experience?
- What recording that you have been a part of is memorable or special?
- What advice would you give to an aspiring professional musician?
- What is your favorite or most memorable venue/concert hall that you have gotten to perform at?
- Have you performed outside of the country? If so, where and how did that come to be?
- What are some of the best parts about making a living as a musician?
- What are some of the most challenging parts about making a living as a musician?
- How did you pick the instrument you play?
- Do you play any other instruments besides your primary instrument?
- Do you compose or arrange music? If so, how did you learn how to do this and what groups do you do this for?
- Do you have a story that is particularly bizarre from your life as a musician?
- Where did you go to school for music? What degrees did you pursue?
- How do you get work (gigs) as a musician?
- How do you balance playing for free or little money with the opportunity to perform in public?
- What musical accomplishments are you most proud of?
- Do you (or have you ever) done work outside of music? If so, anything particularly odd or interesting?
- What non-musical traits do you think are most important for aspiring musicians?
- How do you balance your music (teaching and performing) life with your personal life?