



Opleidingen voor
Jazz en Lichte Muziek

English Brochure

2025/2026

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Introduction

DJAM is a private school for Jazz and Popular Music founded in 1990.

DJAM offers a multi-year music education with both theory and practical subjects, which are geared carefully to each other. The teachers are experienced, motivated and work closely together.

The student has the choice of three different lesson packages with, in addition, the possibility of taking main subject lessons. Through an entrance exam the level of the student is determined for every course.

The number of students per group is limited, so there is plenty of room for personal attention. There is an atmosphere of enthusiasm, dedication, concentration and collegiality. DJAM also offers the opportunity to prepare for a conservatory study, both for the practical and the theoretical parts.

DJAM is also a meeting place where students meet to make music together. The program - just like any serious musician - is constantly evolving.

Concept

The concept for the course was developed by Christian Hassenstein in collaboration with teachers from various conservatories in the Netherlands.

The starting point of the course is the acquisition of musical knowledge and skills, with an emphasis on improvisation. In addition, we pay attention to individual aspects such as instrument technique, theory- and ear training skills. Furthermore, in a group setting we deepen points such as listening, ensemble playing and repertoire building. The goal of the course is to help students take a serious step forward in their musical development.

Because of this special concept, in conjunction with the well-considered integration of the various subjects, DJAM has managed to occupy a unique place within Dutch music education.

The Students

Our students have different backgrounds and goals in music. There are professional musicians, as well as people for whom music is an (extremely important) pastime. Some already have Classical training and want to develop their skills in Jazz. Others have only been playing for half a year or so and have certain ambitions they want to fulfill in music. Some want to study at a conservatory and choose DJAM as a preparatory training. Others choose to study at DJAM on a long-term basis because of its character, atmosphere and quality. The age of the students ranges from 16 to 66.

"Does it work, having so many different kinds of people studying together?"
Yes, it works. It happens to work very well.

The Polanentheater

DJAM is located in the building of the Polanentheater in Amsterdam-West nearby the Westergasfabriek.



DJAM has at its disposal a classroom for combo lessons and a classroom for supporting classes. In addition for APM we utilize another bigger room. The foyer of the theatre is open for coffee, tea and other refreshments during DJAM lessons (and also, of course, during performances). The atmosphere is informal. During breaks and free periods, DJAM students are often found at a table, in a discussion or immersed in a bit of music theory.

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For info on Corona see page 28.

The Polanentheater, focuses primarily on cabaret and professional theater projects.

For more information surf on the internet to: www.polanentheater.nl.

The DJAM Team

Christian Hassenstein

(Born in 1960)

Founder and director of DJAM

Started playing guitar when he was 15. Studied Jazz and Classical guitar from 1982-86 at the conservatory in Graz, Austria and Jazz guitar from 1986-88 at the Hilversum Conservatory (diploma) with Wim Overgaauw. Plays in his own trio (with—among others—A. v. Rooyen or David Friesen) and quartet since 1983 throughout Europe in Jazz clubs and at festivals. Recorded many CDs. Began teaching in 1980; taught at the Hilversum Conservatory from 1987-92 (Jazz guitar as main subject).

Website: www.christianhassenstein.com



Gerard Kleijn

(Born in 1964)

Teaches trumpet as main subject

Studied at the Hilversum Conservatory (Bert Joris) and the Rotterdam Conservatory (Jarmo Hoogen-dijk). Since 1995 active with his own Jazzgroups. Produced 4 cd's under his own name and worked as a sideman in countless bands and styles. He played with o.a. the Amsterdam Jazzquintet, the Dutch Jazz Orchestra, Paul Stoker's Bigband, Fay Claassen and the Holland Bigband. Teaches since 1995. Website: www.gerardkleijn.com



Joost van Son

(Born in 1953)

Teaches accordion as main subject

Studied piano at the Sweelinck Conservatory in Amsterdam. Self-taught accordion player. Has worked with theatre productions and written music for films. Has done innumerable concerts and radio recordings. Accordion teacher since 1985.





Jeroen Bohan

(Born in 1967)

Teaches supporting lessons and guitar as main subject

Studied Jazz guitar at the Hilversum Conservatory (diploma in 1994) with among others, Peter Nieuwerf and Wim Overgaauw. He also studied composition and arrangement at the same conservatory. Composes and gives guitar lessons and workshops for many years. Is specialized in music theory and

it's practical application. Website: www.jeroenbohan.com



Franc auf dem Brinke

(Born in 1961)

Teaches drums as main subject

Studied classical drums at the Den Haag Conservatory. He graduated at the Rotterdam Conservatory and studied in New York (with a.o. Marvin 'Smitty' Smith and John Riley). He played with Toon Roos, Karel Boehlee, Lilian Vieira, Benjamin Herman and Rick Margitza and performs with his own bands The Extensionicers and Sambacá.

Franc teaches groups and individuals since 1992, also at his own drumschool Drummers Initiative and the Amsterdam and Groningen Conservatories. Website: www.francaufdembrinke.com



Anne Mieke Kruijswijk

(Born in 1966)

Teaches singing as main subject

Studied Jazz singing at the Sweelinck Conservatory with (among others) Deborah Brown, Sylvi Lane, Rhiannon and Peggy Larson. She studied Classical singing with Marianne Kweksilber (94-06). Anne Mieke sang in Jazz quartet Mic & Strings, Popband Hanny Gets Funny, The Weddingsisters and Dickens December. Arranges and composes for close

harmony groups. Has played in a.o. Open Bac and Bellevue. She has done private teaching for many years. Website: www.mikkruijswijk.nl

Sven Schuster

(Born in 1965)

Teaches combo and bass as main subject

Studied double-bass at Hilversum Conservatory and the conservatory in Graz, Austria. He graduated in 1991. Plays in many groups in Amsterdam, leads his own band Shooster. Recorded extensively. Has taught privately and at workshops for years.

Website: www.shooster.nl



Tiago Lageira

(Born in 1992)

Teaches guitar as main subject

Tiago was born in Portugal. He studied at DJAM for 1 year. After completing his jazz guitar studies at the Tilburg Conservatory in 2017, he moved to Amsterdam where he is part of various projects such as the Tiago Lageira Trio, Coolhaven Quintet and Jazambeï. Has worked for years as a teacher at music schools as a guitar and piano teacher. Website: www.tiagolageira.com



Ilse Huizinga

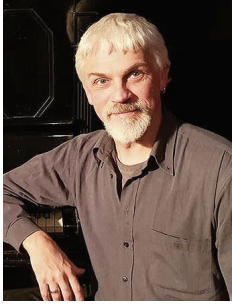
(Born in 1966)

Teaches singing as main subject

Studied singing at the Amsterdam Conservatory (1993-1996). Her 7th CD Here's to Maya Angelou will be released in 2016. Played with: Ruud Jacobs, Ferdinand Povel, Anton Goudsmit, Frits Landesbergen, Michiel Borstlap and her husband, pianist/arranger Erik van der Luijt. Besides teaching privately she organizes workshops and performances for Jazz vocalists in Amsterdam, New York, Rome and Prague with Vocal Jazz Trip.

Website: www.ilsehuizinga.com





Jens Lima Dos Santos

(Born in 1967)

Teaches combo and piano as main subject

Jens studied Jazz piano at the Hilversum Conservatory (graduated in 1995) with Christine Schneider and Rob Madna and worked with musicians like Clarence Becton, Pablo Nahar, Nadja Filtzer, Nema Lopes and the Jeanscompany (bandleader 2005-2008). In 2002 he studied and taught in Sao Paulo at CLAM, founded by the Zimbo trio. In 2009 he started the project Zimbolico. He is active as an educator (piano and guitar), arranger and composer. Website: www.zimbolico.com



Florian Hierdeis

(Born in 1977)

Teaches combo and guitar as main subject

Is playing the guitar since age ten. Studied Jazz guitar at the Hilversum Conservatory (graduated in 2005) with Maarten van der Grinten and Jesse van Ruller. Had masterclasses with Kurt Rosenwinkel, Pat Martino and Mike Stern. Visited New York to study with contemporary masters like Lage Lund and Gilad Hekselman. He composes and plays in the Netherlands as well as abroad with a variety of different formations. Website: www.florianhierdeis.com



Matthias Konrad

(Born in 1980)

Teaches trombone as main subject

Studied at the Conservatory of Amsterdam. He lived in New York (lessons from Robin Eubanks, Kenny Werner and Brian Lynch, among others). He is a in-demand musician in various bands such as Tetzepi, Bernie's Lounge, Konrad Koselleck Bigband and Mathilde Santing. As a freelancer worked with Ellen ten Damme, Ruben Hein and Marieke Jager. He has been teaching for years. Website: www.matthiaskonrad.com

Wolfgang Maiwald

(Born in 1965)

Teaches piano as main subject

Started playing piano at age 14. Studied piano at the Hilversum Conservatory with (among others) Jan Huydts and Rob Madna (diploma in 1995). Has played with Ferdinand Povel, Rick Margitza, Joe Lovano, Jesse van Ruller, Benjamin Herman and Deborah Carter. He performs with his own trio regularly and also also composes, arranges and produces music for diverse artists. Website: www.wolfgangmaiwald.com



Henriette Andersen

(Born in 1963)

Teaches singing as main subject

Henriette studied 6 years at DJAM. She had lessons with (among others) Denise Jannah, Sheila Jordan and Rhiannon. She also studied modern Dutch poetry and did an education as counselor for personal growth and body consciousness. Has been performing with diverse vocal ensembles and bands since 1983. Her cd 'Heart and Song' came out in 2005. She has given private lessons and workshops for many years, and taught at the public music school of Harlem. Website: www.vrijzingen.nl



Iman Spaargaren

(Born in 1972)

Teaches saxophone as main subject

Iman studied saxophone with Ferdinand Povel at the Amsterdam Conservatory. At Codarts in Rotterdam he received his masters degree in 2008. He plays in several bands including Undercurrent, Thelonious4 and European Union Quartet and he has released several CDs (In The Moment, Flow). In 2012 he played the prestigious Young VIP Tour. He is active as a composer and arranger. Iman has years of experience in teaching saxophone and clarinet and jazz workshops at home and abroad. Website: www.imanspaargaren.nl



Armand van Wijck

(Born in 1984)

Teaches chromatic harmonica as main subject

Armand is one of the few who has devoted himself entirely to the chromatic harmonica in jazz. He studied jazz at Codarts in Rotterdam and then went to Sweden to study improvisation with Arve Henriksen and Anders Jormin, among others. He now lives in Stockholm, where he also holds a master's degree in jazz composition. He plays regularly in Scandinavia, the Netherlands and sometimes far beyond, such as in South Africa. He teaches mostly online, but is also regularly in the Netherlands for performances and teaching.

Website: www.armandvanwijck.com



Please note: If there is no teacher listed for your instrument, that does not mean that DJAM does not teach it as a main subject. In such cases, we will contact a suitable teacher.

The DJAM Course Packages

DJAM offers three different course packages and main subject lessons (the main subject lessons are not included in any of the packages). Below you'll find an overview of what each package has to offer:

- **Course Package 1 (all subjects excl. main subject lessons)**

The concept of a DJAM education is best represented by the combination of courses that are offered in package 1. Package 1 consists of all the lessons: theory, rhythm, improvisation, ear-training, APM and combo (as mentioned earlier, the main subject lessons are not included in any of the course packages). We generally advise our students to choose this package. However, depending on your ambitions, experience and time, it may make more sense to choose one of the other packages.

If you choose course package 1, you will have 4 to 5 hours of lessons a week, depending on their level. In addition, there will be about 10-15 hours of homework a week (*).

- **Course Package 2 (only the supporting subjects)**

Package 2 is useful for students who only want to improve their ear-training skills and knowledge of music theory. This package consists of lessons in theory, rhythm, improvisation, ear-training and APM. Those choosing course package 2 will have 1,5 to 2,5 hours of lessons a week, depending on their level. In addition, there will be about 5-10 hours of homework a week (*).

- **Course Package 3 (only the combo classes)**

Course package 3 is designed for people who are advanced in ear-training and music theory but want to increase their practical experience. To be eligible for package 3, the student must show sufficient ability in ear-training and theory during the entrance exam. This package consisting of combo lessons includes 1,5 to 2,5 hours of lessons a week, depending on the student's level. Homework also takes about 5-10 hours a week (*).

Since there are a limited number of places in every combo, students who choose course package 1 are given placement priority.

- **Main Subject Lessons**

The section titled 'The DJAM Team' gives an overview of all the teachers that give lessons at DJAM. If there is no teacher listed for your instrument then it is always possible for DJAM to find you a capable teacher with whom you can take main subject lessons.



Experience shows that main subject lessons benefit the progress of your studies because they are closely related to the other courses offered at DJAM. We therefore advise you to take main subject lessons through DJAM; we guarantee you responsible lessons by well-trained and educated music teachers. The time required for homework with main subject lessons (one lesson takes 45 minutes) varies because the main subject and combo lessons are closely linked (*). The time you spend practising on your combo repertoire simultaneously improves your playing ability and vice versa: the regular training of your vocal/playing ability during the main subject lessons will result in considerably less effort in preparing for the combo lessons.

The cost for main subject lessons is not included in the course package fee (for information concerning the costs of these lessons please refer to the section 'The Financial Side' below).

Main subject lessons are optional; however, we reserve the right to give priority to those students who choose to take main subject lessons through DJAM.

(Please note: It is difficult to give an estimate of the number of hours that will need to be spent doing homework. This amount depends on various factors, such as the package you choose, your study tempo and your ability to study effectively.*

The Subjects at DJAM

Below you find an overview of all subjects of the DJAM curriculum:

● Combo

(prep. level to level 2: one lesson á 90 minutes a week;

level 3: one lesson á 130 minutes a week;

advanced level: one lesson á 180 minutes a week)

The combo lessons are the core of the curriculum at DJAM, where you can use all your skills from the other lessons by improvising, playing together and studying pieces and arrangements. The important thing here is communication and listening to yourself and your co-musicians.

We do our best to limit the amount of people per combo and certainly try to avoid having two people play the same instrument. However, scheduling problems sometimes make this impossible. By the way: we never put two drummers or bassists in one combo.

Besides arrangements of Jazz standards, pieces are also taught which are specially composed for the different levels at DJAM.

Sufficient instrument technique is essential for participation in the combo lessons. If we see in the audition that you are not yet ready to join, you can prepare by taking main subject lessons, ideally in combination with the supporting subjects. Sometimes taking main subject is necessary for participation in combo or for assignment to a higher combo level.

Play-along files containing all the pieces treated during lessons (part of the teaching materials) will be made available for students.

The various combos will give a short performance during the New Year's Concert and Open House/Closing Concert.

Watch clips of diverse DJAM combos performing on our website:

<https://djam.nl/videos>

● Supporting Subjects (theoretical and practical)

In addition to the combo lessons, DJAM offers a varied range of subjects that lead to a deeper level in music-making: the Supporting Subjects. These include subjects such as theory, improvisation, rhythm and ear-training. In addition to understanding content, you will also improve your rhythmic skills and your musical ear. Communication in a band gets easier because you better understand how music is organized, and it improves your ability to identify sound.

In the lessons you play a lot on your own instrument (for the vocalists that is the voice). In this way there is a direct link with practice. Our experience is that the material is better memorized.

Support 1: The basic subjects (levels 1 through 3)

Level 1 to 3 is our basic training. Here music theory is divided into 5 different subjects (harmony, improvisation, ear training, rhythm and APM).

a) Harmony

(One lesson á 50 minutes every other week)

How does music actually work? That's what this class is all about. Topics include: intervals, scales, keys, chords. At higher levels we add step analysis, chord extensions and voice leading.

b) Improvisation

(One lesson á 50 minutes every other week)

In this class you improve your melodic, harmonic and rhythmic soloing. Phrasing and variation are recurring subjects. Links are established with the subjects harmony, rhythm and ear training. For example, how can you use the learned scales? How can this be applied to a chord progression?

c) Rhythm

(One lesson á 50 minutes every other week)

In this class we are dealing with rhythms, both in playing and singing, an important skill. In addition we improvise rhythms and learn to notate them. We are also working on improving your timing within a particular style. Mastering the swing feel plays a big role in this. At higher levels the rhythms get more complex and the tempos go up.

d) Ear-training

(One lesson á 50 minutes every other week)

In this class you train your musical ear. You try to recognize, replay and notate different intervals, scales, chords, melodies and chord progressions. The goal is to improve your inner hearing, which will ideally help you to hear what you play in advance. A minimum of skills on the piano or guitar is important for this class because these instruments help you check the results.

e) APM (Additional Practical Modules)

(One lesson á 60 minutes a week)

These classes consist of modules that are an important complement to the other courses. The modules are: II-V-I progressions, solo practicum, modal practicum, turnaround practicum, blues practicum, guide-tone lines practicum, and big-band. In addition to the practical modules, there are modules that focus on active listening: Listening to Jazz and Jazz History. APM consists of 3 years, each with a different content. Some modules return with other items (big-band and solo practicum), while other modules rotate. When you have taken the 3 years of basic subjects, you will have completed all APM year courses.

This table shows which courses you take at which level of study. There are 3 packages possible. Main subject you follow independent of which package you have chosen.

		course package 1						Main subject		
level	subject	Combo	Supporting subjects							
			Theory	Improvisation	Rhythm	Ear-training	APM		Comp/Arr	
I		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓	
II		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
III		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	-	✓
advanced		✓	-	-	-	-	-	✓	✓	✓

course package 3
course package 2

For our Supporting Subjects there are accompanying CDs and books available containing all the material you need. The CD recordings are also available for download at our student site.

In order to be able to follow these courses, DJAM requires the following prerequisites for participation:

- *you must have a chord instrument at your disposal*
Pianists, guitarists and accordionists are already equipped in that respect. We ask the other students to obtain a keyboard or piano before they start their studies.
- *you must have a basic knowledge of musical notation*
If you have no knowledge of notation yet, you can follow the preparatory course 'reading music' (3 lessons á 60 min) through DJAM. You can choose to follow this course in July, August and September, prior to the start of the course year.



Support 2: The extended subjects (advanced level)

In a continuation of the basic subjects DJAM offers lessons in arranging and composing, as part of Support 2 (advanced theory level). Jazz will be the starting point, but pop music will also be taken into account.

a) Arranging

(One lesson á 100 minutes every other week)

In this subject you will learn how to harmonise a melody with chords for a particular instrumentation. An important part is instrumentation, where you learn about the characteristics of instruments, and how to write parts for these instruments. Much attention is also paid to the technical side of arranging: parallel harmonization, fills, countermovement and lateral movement. Reharmonization is another topic that will be covered.

b) Composition

(One lesson á 100 minutes every other week)

In this course we look into song forms in jazz and pop music. This will reveal how to give structure to a composition. We practice writing smooth chord progressions within a certain song form. In doing so, you apply the knowledge that you have gained in the field of harmony. We pay attention to melodic structure, rhythm, climax effect and style characteristics. During the lessons there will be a lot of listening to recorded examples.

We recommend that you first follow arranging and then composing. You can then arrange your own compositions and have already developed extra insight into chords, which is good for composing.

In order to be able to follow these subjects properly, a number of skills are required. That is why DJAM sets the following conditions for participation:

- *sufficient knowledge of music theory*
 - Students already studying at DJAM:
You have completed theory level 3 or you also apply for theory level 3 in the same course year. Ear-training and rhythm classes level 2 are completed.
 - New students:
The entrance exam shows that you have sufficient theoretical knowledge, comparable to DJAM theory level 3. Your skills in the field of ear-training and rhythm are sufficient, comparable to a completed level 2 at DJAM.

- *sufficient skills on piano or guitar*
You are able to play chords and melodies at a slow tempo.

- *sufficient knowledge of notation software*
You are able to work with apps such as Sibelius, Finale or Dorico.

● **Main Subject Lessons**

(One lesson á 45 minutes a week)

These are individual lessons dealing with the student's specific instrument. Main subject lessons complement the subject matter of the other lessons and generally guide you through your musical development and deal with instrumental skills. Main subject lessons can be taken for any instrument.

Please note: some classes require a minimum number of students to take place.

Levels Assignment

● Entrance Exams

For the theoretical and practical courses, you will be assigned to one of four levels. The beginner's level is level I, while 'advanced' is the highest level. Since the theoretical and practical skills are evaluated separately, it is possible to be placed on different levels.

For example, you may be placed at a different level for the theory lessons than for the combo lesson.

Should you feel that—after a couple of lessons—you belong in a different level, please notify and discuss it with your teacher to examine the possibility of switching to another level.

● Moving to a Higher Level

In May and June, exams will be given in all courses (except for main subject and APM) to determine whether or not students can continue their studies at a higher level.

Because the study tempo is very individual and depends on specific talents and preferences it is possible that you need more than one course year to successfully complete one or more courses.

At the end of the year, each student receives an evaluation report, containing the results of these exams, as well as remarks and suggestions.

FYI: the results of all exams are only valid for a limited amount of time. You have to repeat the exam(s) if you are not beginning or continuing your studies at DJAM in the same year the exam(s) were given.

Sometimes taking main subject is necessary for participation in combo or for assignment to a higher combo level.



Entrance Exam/Registration

The DJAM entrance exams will be held in June through November. Anyone can sign up for the entrance exam.

Please note: due to a limited amount of study places we advise you to do the exam as early as possible. There's also a better chance to take your preferences into consideration when drawing up the schedules.

One condition for admission is that we recognize in the student a natural musical ability. No special skills or theoretical knowledge are needed to be accepted. Because DJAM's program is divided into five levels, we are able to place each student in a group appropriate to his or her level of skill. We also look for the right motivation and attitude in each applicant. Group sessions inevitably require a certain flexibility and cooperation.

The entrance exam consists of a music theory exam and an audition. Both parts of the exam are scheduled on the same day but at different times.

- **The theoretical part** (*group session, duration: 45 min.*)

The theoretical part is a written exam covering various topics of music theory. This exam gets harder as you go along but you only have to fill in what you know.

- **The audition** (*individual session, duration: 45 min.*)

For the audition, we ask you to prepare two of your favorite Jazz standards; otherwise, just perform a piece of music in any style you are comfortable playing. DJAM teachers will provide the accompaniment. Finally, keeping in mind your level, we will test your musical ear, improvisation and your rhythmic sense.

There's no need to be nervous since the purpose isn't to get a high score. The point is to figure out on what level you belong. The results are usually announced right after the exam.

Those accepted into the program will receive a registration form which serves as an official contract valid for the duration of one school year.

If you decide to join DJAM, fill out and sign the registration form and return it to us. By signing this form, you are accepting the accompanying obligations.

School Hours/School Days

The course year 2025/26 starts on Sunday 21 September 2025—the day you can pick up your schedules. The first week of lessons starts at Sunday 28 September. The course year runs until mid-June 2026. This period includes 30 weeks of lessons in which several vacations are scheduled.

The DJAM classes are on Sunday and Monday (approx. 11 AM to 10.30 PM) and on Tuesday and Wednesday (in the evening hours). It is often possible and practical to take all (group)lessons in one day. Probably the most effective way of studying is to schedule the lessons over 2 days to fully absorb the material.

For those who are not able to attend classes during the day or who live out of town we offer two options (or a combination of the two):

1. attend all lessons in the weekend (on Sundays)

Please keep in mind that not all levels can be given in the weekend. There will be combo and supporting classes level 1 and 2. Other level classes could be available depending on the number of students and their time preferences.

2. attend certain lessons on weekday evenings

This option is available only for students who have full daytime commitments during the week. These lessons will be given between 6 PM and 10.30 PM.

Scheduling/Time Preferences

We try to take each person's preferences into consideration when drawing up the schedules. We therefore ask you to indicate your preferences clearly on the registration form.

Indicate which options you prefer:

a) no preferences

b) three out of the four school days on which you are available
(the school days are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

c) weekend and/or the evening classes during the week
(for those who have full-time commitments in addition to their studies)

In option b) we ask that you give us 3 preference days to give us some flexibility while making the schedule. This does not mean that your classes will be spread out over these 3 days. If you indicate less than three days, you



run the risk of getting a schedule that deviates from your choices. There's no point indicating specific hours or parts of the day you choose.

Should we be unable to meet every student's wishes (concerning the scheduling of days), then we will call those concerned and try to find another solution.

The schedules can be picked up in the beginning of September. Schedules based on the choices a student has made on the registration form are basically fixed and cannot be changed. However, if we are convinced that there is a pressing reason for such a change (and if indeed such a change is still possible) then it can be arranged for the administrative fee of € 25,-.

The Rules of the Game

To make sure things run smoothly and remain fun we have set up some rules to deal with things like attendance, showing up on time, preparing well for lessons, paying on time, behaviour, etc.

You are expected to carefully read the rules and agree their conditions before officially registering as a student at DJAM. You will receive a copy of the rules together with the application form after taking the entrance exam.

Prospects After DJAM

After successfully completing the Supporting Subjects at level 3 (Support 1), level advanced (Support 2) and combo level advanced, you receive a diploma containing the results of the courses you took at DJAM. With these diplomas, we are stating our confidence in your ability to hold your own at a high musical level.

Though we can not guarantee you any study places at or diplomas from other institutions, we would like to elaborate on one important prospect.

● Entering a Conservatory

If you plan to take the entrance examination for a conservatory, then you should be qualified, in terms of musical knowledge, after completing level 2. The exam also depends on your instrumental skills. Regarding your playing ability, you can count on responsible guidance from your DJAM main subject teachers.

An important factor is, which conservatory you are applying for. Some institutes have a higher entrance level than others. Also, due to mergings and/or economizing within different institutes or because of changes made by the government it is possible that the amount of students admitted can change from year to year.

Tuition

Your tuition depends on which course package you choose. The price per package can vary as well, depending on your level (which determines how many hours a week you will have lessons):

Package 1	(Levels 1, 2 and Adv.)	€ 2340,-
Package 1	(Level 3)	€ 2590,-
Package 2	(Levels 1 - 3)	€ 1860,-
Package 2	(Advanced level)	€ 970,-
Package 3	(Levels 1, 2)	€ 1540,-
Package 3	(Level 3)	€ 1770,-
Package 3	(Advanced level)	€ 1990,-
Main Subject	(all levels)	€ 1030,-/1150,- (*)

(*) see page 23, Cost of main subject lessons

• Payment of the Tuition

1. You can pay the tuition in one lump sum before the start of the school year (i.e., before 1 August 2025).

2. You can pay according to the instalment plan. The due dates for the instalments are 1 August 2025; 1 November 2025; 10 January 2026 and 1 March 2026. This option involves extra costs and is only possible for students who are permanent resident of the Netherlands. DJAM reserves the right to ask for a confirmation of this information (either a recent bank-statement or a copy of your Town Hall registration).

Students who continue their studies in the next course year will be eligible for a discount on their school fee.

Please note: the discount does not apply to students who only took DJAM main subject lessons.

People who register shortly before or after must pay tuition within 14 days. Those who register after the course year has started and choose to pay in instalments will have to make individual agreements with DJAM.

If you are paying by cash, please try to have the exact amount. We cannot accept five hundred euro bills. Please pay in the DJAM office (see office hours). Main subject teachers are unable to accept your tuition payment.

Any bank costs involved in transferring money are for your own expense.



● Pay on Time

For the two payment plans, we request you to pay on time. We do not send payment checks—we will send you a reminder prior to every instalment date instead. We expect to receive your payment prior to or on the date of instalment. If we do not receive your payment we will send you a reminder and request payment within ten days. If you do not respond to this second reminder we will charge you for administration costs as well. If we don't receive your full payment at all then DJAM can decide to take further action, i.e., call in a debt-recovery agency.

Please note: in order to avoid any problems in administering your payment you should always state your name during bank transactions.

If you should run into financial difficulties during your studies at DJAM, then please contact the administration prior to any of the dates on which payment is due. It might be possible to set up a temporary payment plan.

● Student Grants/Child Support

DJAM students are neither eligible for study grants from the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture and Science nor do they qualify for the Public Transportation Travel Card (O.V. Jaarkaart). People who receive social security/unemployment benefits need not relinquish them. However, we do advise these students to choose the weekend and evening courses (see section titled 'Scheduling/Time Preferences') in connection with social security regulations which require beneficiaries to remain available during the day for the job market.

Those receiving child support benefits are not in danger of losing them by studying at DJAM. For further information about the terms of child support benefits you can best contact your local 'Sociale Verzekeringsbank' office, who deals with these matters.

Cost of Main Subject Lessons

If you take DJAM group lessons, the costs for the main subject lessons are € 1030,-. These are not included in the course fee of one of the packages. If you only want to take main subject lessons without group lessons, the amount is € 1150,-. This amount must be paid to the principal subject teacher and not to be transferred to the DJAM account.

Those taking main subject lessons sign a separate agreement with their teacher. There are 30 main subject lessons a year. The options for payment are the same as for tuition (lump sum payment or the more expensive option, the instalment plan).

Cost of Entrance Exam

The fee for taking an entrance exam is € 39,-. You will be invited to take an entrance exam as soon as the fee has been paid. Therefore, when you email or fax the application form make the payment the same day. Any bank costs involved in transferring money are for your own expense.

Should you decide to participate in the entrance exams at the last minute, i.e. right before they are administered, then it's best you give us a call so we can make an appointment for you to pay in cash. Upon receiving your payment at the office, we will also set a date and time for you to take the entrance exam.

You sign up for the exam via our website (www.djam.nl). An application form can also be found in the back of this brochure as well as in the DJAM folder. Please use this form only if you can't sign up online. Should you decide to cancel or re-schedule your participation in the entrance exam please let us know at least 2 weeks prior the date of the exam. If you give us a shorter notice a restitution of your payment is not possible.

Cost of Teaching Materials

Teaching materials necessary for course package 1:

• Lesmateriaal theorie (a theory book)	€ 35,-
• Thema's en oefeningen (a boek containing sheet music, examples, exercises, plus corresponding play-a-long tracks)	€ 30,-
• Dicteepakket (a book plus corresponding audio tracks)	€ 20,-
• Digital course materials (audio and PDF downloads)	€ 35,-
TOTAAL	€ 120,-

Teaching materials necessary for course package 2:

• Lesmateriaal theorie (a theory book)	€ 35,-
• Dicteepakket (a book plus corresponding audio tracks)	€ 20,-
• Digital course materials (audio and PDF downloads)	€ 35,-
TOTAAL	€ 90,-

Teaching materials necessary for course package 3:

• Lesmateriaal theorie (a theory book)	€ 35,-
• Thema's en oefeningen (a boek containing sheet music, examples, exercises, plus corresponding play-a-long tracks)	€ 30,-
• Digital course materials (audio and PDF downloads)	€ 35,-
TOTAAL	€ 100,-

Teaching materials necessary for main subject lessons:

• Lesmateriaal theorie (a theory book)	€ 35,-
• Thema's en oefeningen (a boek containing sheet music, examples, exercises, plus corresponding play-a-long tracks)	€ 30,-
• Dicteepakket (a book plus corresponding audio tracks)	€ 20,-
• Digital course materials (audio and PDF downloads)	€ 35,-
TOTAAL	€ 120,-

Students are obliged to buy the teaching materials that are required for their course package. The teaching material is distributed at the beginning of the course year and should be paid for within 14 days.

DJAM students who continue their studies are obliged to pay for any lesson material that was updated or that will be needed in order to take lessons at a higher combo level or after switching course packages.

New Year's Concert

Every year after New Year, DJAM organizes a concert for its students with performances by the school's various combos and APM presentations. This concert is free of charge and open to everyone.

- **New Year's concert 2026:**

Saturday 24 January 2026 (2-7 PM) in Polanentheater

Watch clips of diverse DJAM combos performing on Youtube:

<https://djam.nl/videos>

Open House/End of the Year Concert

DJAM's open house will be held on Sunday 15 June 2025. During the open house, you will have the opportunity to watch and listen to presentations of APM and concerts of the various combos during the 2024/25 school year. You will have the opportunity to meet students and teachers and ask questions and exchange ideas with them. Also there will be public lessons held by DJAM teachers.

In other words, it's a perfect opportunity to see what the atmosphere is like at DJAM.





You can also use the opportunity to sign up for the entrance exam. All this will happen between 2-6 PM at DJAM (Polanentheater building) in Amsterdam.

We hope to meet all those interested at the open house.

Watch clips of diverse DJAM combos performing on our website:
<https://djam.nl/videos>

Sessions and combo presentations

There are DJAM sessions and combo presentations planned on a regular basis in Zaal100 in Amsterdam. Please stay in touch through our website (<https://djam.nl>) for the latest announcements.

V

ACCESSIBILITY

DJAM is easily accessible by both public transport (tram 3 [stop Haarlemmermeerplein] and bus 22 [stop Spaarndammer Straat]) and by car. Here you see a map with the location of DJAM. In addition you could use Google Maps to plan your individual route to DJAM. To do this pls use the link on our website.



BTW: DJAM's location is visible in Google Maps.

Address:

DJAM, Polanenstraat 174, 1013 WC Amsterdam, tel 020-665 63 38

Office hours:

Our office will be open for public during the course year (beginning of Sept to mid May) on Mondays from 4 to 6 PM. Send an email outside office hours or leave a message on our machine.

Internet:

<https://djam.nl>

Email: info@djam.nl, administratie@djam.nl

DJAM can also be found on  and 

Bank:

ING bank, DJAM, Amsterdam
IBAN nr: NL64INGB0006131984
Swift/BIC code: INGBNL2A

Chamber of Commerce (aka KvK) code: 50441612

VI APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ENTRANCE EXAM

Please use this form only if you can't sign up online (<https://djam.nl/inschrijfformulier>)

Name:

Address:

Postal code/town:

Daytime phone: Evening phone:

E-mail:

Date of birth:

Instrument:

Study programme of choice: 1 2 3

I got information about this institute through

ad in magazine: friends

folder found at internet

I am mailing or faxing the completed application form to:

DJAM • Polanenstraat 174 • 1013 WC Amsterdam/NL

I will deposit the admission test fee of € 39,- into DJAM's bank account
(IBAN: NL64INGB0006131984, BIC: INGBNL2A).

Any bank costs involved in transferring money are for your own expense.

The date and time of the admission test will be emailed to you once this application form and the admission test fee has been received by DJAM.

My preference for the entrance exam of 2025 is:

no prefs Sun 22 June Sun 6 July

The following data are for people who sign up after 6 July:

Please note: we advise you to do the exam as early as possible (see page 17)

Sun 14 September later in September till the end of November

Date: Signature:



