Jazz for “Non-Jazzers”

Dr. Chad West

Some Basic Jazz Styles

Latin
Bop
Blues
Swing
Opening Thoughts

Why have a jazz band as part of your music program?

Why do some people not have jazz bands as part of their programs?

The single most important thing in teaching/learning jazz is *listening* to jazz.
Swing Articulation

- Attack with a “doo” syllable rather than “tah”
- Release the note with the tongue
- Quarter notes are generally played detached (staccato)
- 8th notes are generally played connected (legato)
- Accent quarter notes on 2 and 4

Swing Articulation

- Accent 8th notes on the upbeats
- Swing- 2nd eighth note played like last third of a triplet
Swing Articulation

✓ 8th then quarter is played long-short

✓ Dotted quarter—zabadoo-dot

Beginning Method Books

Jazz Ensemble

Jazz Combo
Jazz Solfège

Tenuto (full value) doo

Long Accent (full value, accented) bah

Traditional  Jazz

Tah  Tah  Tah  Tah  Tah  Doo  Doo  Doo  Bah  Doo  Doo  Doo  It

Jazz Solfège

Staccato (short, unaccented) dit

Roof Top Accent (short, accented) dot

Traditional  Jazz

Tah  Tah  Tah  Tah  Tah  Dit  Dit  Dit  Dot  Dit  Dot  Dot
Jazz Solfège

\[ \text{Traditional:} \quad \text{tah tah tah tah Tah tah tah tah doo bah doo bah doo bah doo bah dot doo bah doo bah dot} \]

\[ \text{Jazz:} \quad \text{tah tah tah tah Tah tah tah tah doo bah doo bah dot doo bah doo bah dot} \]
Jazz Solfège

Rock Articulation

Swing Style

Latin or Rock Style

dit doo bah dit doo bah dit dot
doo dit dit doo dit dit dit bah dot
Latin/Rock Style

- Attacks and releases are similar to swing
- Still accenting 2 and 4
- Same articulation syllables
- Straight 8ths
- 8th then quarter is played as written
- Drummer uses snare and bass drum for pulse

Did I mention that it is important to listen?

You could explain it...or you could just let your students hear
Pancho Sanchez
Jazz Ornamentation

Bend

Fall

Scoop

Doit

Jazz Ornamentation

Plop

Gliss.

Flip
Importance of Listening

*Without listening your bands will sound “stiff”*

Let’s Listen to the Basie Orchestra play, *Night in Tunisia*

Listen to a well-known brass quintet play *Night in Tunisia*
Rhythm Section Roles

**Time**
Provide rhythmic and harmonic foundation

**Style and Color**
Set-up horn section and control dynamics

**Witty Conversationalist**
Fill in the rhythmic and harmonic gaps

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Magic Triangle

**Bass**
Locks in with 2 & 4 from hi hat

**Hi Hat**
Locks in with ride cymbal

**Ride Cymbal**
Locks in with bass player’s bass line
Rhythm Section Notation

Bb7  Eb1

Add 9th or 13th to make 3-note chord.

Move between chords smoothly by step and keeping chord tones when possible.

Piano

✓ Place 3rd or 7th in the bass
✓ Add 9th or 13th to make 3-note chord.
✓ Move between chords smoothly by step and keeping chord tones when possible.

Swing Comping Patterns

1. \[ \]  2. \[ \]  3. \[ \]  4. \[ \]

Latin Comping Patterns


Guitar

- Voice chords in upper four strings
- Start with 3rd and 7th then add 9th or 13th to make 3-note chord.
- Freddie Green Style—play on each downbeat OR comping patterns below

Swing Comping Patterns

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Latin Comping Patterns

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Bass

Blues Progression

- 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 7, 6, 5
- Try to approach by step or 5th
- Use chromatics for smooth lines

Blues Progression Notation

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Chromatic Scale Notation

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Bass

ii-V-I Progression

✓ “Two-Feel” or “Two-Beat”
✓ Roots on beat 1 and 5ths and 3rds on beat 3
✓ Alternate 3rds and 5ths for smooth lines

Two-Feel

Walking

Latin

Drum Set Notation

Drums

Keep Time Suggested Rhythm Play as Written Horn Entrance
Drum Set

**Swing**

- Always keep 2 and 4 on the high-hat
- "Hot Steak and Cheese" on ride-cymbal

Drum Set

**Latin—Basic Bossa Nova**

- Steady 8ths on hi-hat with right hand
- Add bass drum
- Add rim clicks on snare with left hand
An Aural Approach to Beginning Improvisation

1. Learn the Tune
2. Rhythmic Improvisation on roots
3. 1st 5 notes of each scale
4. Improvise on the Tune

Based on Chris Azzara’s, “Developing Musicianship Through Improvisation”
7th Grade Jazz Band (6:30 a.m.)

Rehearsal Set-Up

Students can hear each other
Stage Set-Up

Do’s and Don’ts

- Bring in guest clinicians
- Have a concert with the community jazz ensemble
- Have your ensemble listen to jazz
- Allow all instruments to join jazz band

- Play too many notes when improvising
- Allow you guitar player to use distortion or the whammy bar
- Conduct your ensemble like a concert band