



# You Can Do It!

Directing a Vocal/Instrumental Jazz Ensemble as a  
Classically Trained Musician

Kyoko Yamamoto: CMEA Bay Section Assistant Jazz Representative/CAJ Membership Chair

[kyokotyamamoto@gmail.com](mailto:kyokotyamamoto@gmail.com)

# Mindset

## *Strength*

- Being confident in your musicianship. What are you good at?

## *Growth*

- Keep pursuing to expand your musicianship.

## *Relevance*

- Attending festivals, YouTube, follow musicians on social media, going to local jazz concerts

## *Relationship*

- Music Colleagues
- Students
- Community

# Practical lessons

## Instrumental Jazz - Middle/High School

### Warm up

- [Five Notes Scales \(Major 3rd and Minor 3rd\)](#)
- Blues – Teach by rote. Sample [playlist](#)
- [Joe Avery's Blues](#)

### Tools

- Metronome (triplet feature)
- Tuner (Tonal Energy)
- iReal Pro

### Sample Rehearsal Schedule: Block Days

- Warm up (~15min)
- Big Band Chart Rehearsal- Read through/Listening to the original and arrangement/Sectional (Director work with the rhythm section)/Fine tuning in details (phrasing/balance/dynamic/articulation/intonation) or
- Combo Rehearsal- Assign 4-5 combo groups (mix instruments/grade), assign combo leader (with iReal pro or youtube), rotate groups (one group will rehearse with the rhythm section)

# Practical lessons

## Vocal Jazz - Middle/High School

### Exercises

- [Cheryl Porter's Vocal Exercise](#)
- [Vocal Jazz Warm-ups for Choir by Fred Ritter](#)
- [Kerry Marsh's Website](#)
- [Scat exercise](#)
- iReal Pro

# For General Music

- Sing Along - [One Note Samba](#) ([lyrics](#))
- Repeat After Me! [C-Jam Blues Head](#)
- [I Got Rhythm \(Rhythm Change!\)](#)

# Useful link

[Jazz Festivals](#)

[Stanford Jazz Workshop](#)

## *Local musicians*

[Steven Lugerner](#)

[Bill Ortiz](#)

[Matt Clark](#)

[Keith Saunders](#)

[Tomoko Funaki](#)

[Sylvia Cuenca](#)

[Akira Tana](#)