The Jazz Doctor (A Solution-Based Approach to Jazz Ensemble Development)

CMEA Bay Section Presentation San Jose State University, January 5, 2024 (1:30 pm) John F. Maltester, Presenter

Introduction

- 1. Related to soon-to-be published reference book
- 2. Purpose a thesaurus reference for jazz ensemble rehearsals
- 3. Instructor's effect on jazz ensemble development:
 - a. Background in jazz and jazz ensemble performance
 - b. Willingness to learn more about jazz pedagogy
 - c. Personality of the instructor
 - d. Level of musicianship
 - e. Effort to listen to big band recordings to hear how the suggestions are manifested in performance
- 4. Knowing why an issue happens is as important as how to correct it
- 5. Quick fixes versus long-term goals for ensemble development

Today's clinic will be an actual clinic – so.....

- 1. Take a minute to identify an issue or two from the following list that you might confront in your jazz ensemble we will discuss them.
- 2. I will reserve the decision about how in-depth we will go because of time constraints.

If you have further questions, please feel free to email me and I will respond as soon as possible. <u>maltester@comcast.net</u>



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Purpose

Disclaimer

Chapter 1: Some Initial Considerations

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Chapter 2: Band Setup Issues

Individual Horn Sections Proximity of Rhythm Section Vibes and Latin Instruments Festival Setups

Chapter 3: General Interpretation Issues

Swing charts

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Pickup Figures Out of Time

Ballads

To Swing or Not to Swing Counting System in Ballads Vibrato

Rock/Latin Charts

Straight 8ths vs Swing 8ths

Not Vertical Sounding

Wrong Feel in Rhythm Section

Chapter 4: Common Rehearsal Issues

Teaching 'Swing' **Teaching Jazz Articulations** Attacks and Releases / Note Duration Phrasing and Shaping Inflections Shakes and Trills Drops, Doits, and Glissandos - Oh My! Other Inflections Jazz Ensemble Dynamics **Common Rhythmic Pattern Issues** Inconsistent Tempo During Ensemble Passages Tempos in General Fast Tunes Slow Tunes Counting Off the Band Why Conduct? Band Sounds Tired Inner Parts Always Sound Muddy Rhythm Section Not with Soloists Soloists Not with Rhythm Section

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Appendix A

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Appendix B

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- 1. Kicking the Band
- 2. General Guidelines for Kicks
- 3. Drum Kick Examples

Appendix C

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- 1. Initial Considerations
- 2. A Science Based Approach
- 3. The Yoga Complete Breath (for brass players)
- 4. Yoga Complete Breath Chart
- 5. Air Pivoting
- 6. Air Pivot Chart

Appendix D

More Information for Brass Players

Four Fundamentals of Trouble-Shooting for Brass

- 1. Feeling of the Lips
- 2. Abdominal Support of Air
- 3. Aperture Control
- 4. Selection of the Correct Mouthpiece

Info on Brass Mouthpiece Selection

- 1. Cup Depth
- 2. Diameter of Cup
- 3. Curvature of the Rim
- 4. Throat Drill Size
- 5. Back Bore

Example of Guidelines for Selecting a Mouthpiece

Appendix E

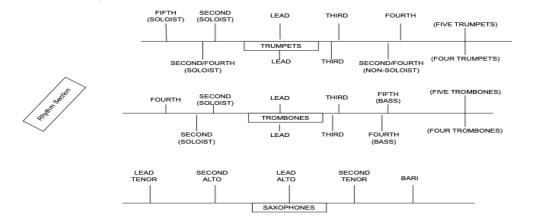
Jazz Improvisation Aids

- 1. Melody Construction
- 2. Various Fundamentals When Experimenting with an Improvised Solo
- 3. Primary Traditional Scales
- 4. Chords and Symbols
- 5. The Function of Chords
- 6. The Major and Minor Triads
- 7. The Augmented and Diminished Triads
- 8. Four Note Chord
- 9. The Modes
- 10. The Scale Syllabus
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 - B. Dorian Scales
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 - D. Lydian Scales
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 - I. Blues Scales
 - J. Whole Tone, Diminished, and Chromatic Scales
 - K. Half-Diminished Scales
 - L. Diminished-Whole Tone Scales
- 11. Examples for Practicing Blues Progressions in the Key of F

The top example is of the ghosted and heavier accented upbeat. The bottom example is of the more slurred approach with tonguing on the upbeats but without the tendency to be too vertical sounding. The second example is preferred.



Seating chart for 8-10 brass



The example below shows triplets in the drum fill, which slows down the perceived pulse, causing an inaccurate entrance. In this case the quarter note triplet in the fill should be avoided.

