



MAKING GOOD CHOICES: SELECTING THE CORRECT REPERTOIRE FOR YOUR BEGINNING OR YOUNG JAZZ ENSEMBLE

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KNOWING YOUR ENSEMBLE

- Know your section leaders and section players strengths & what is in progress
- Know your brass ranges, especially lead players
- Know ability level and comfort level of all rhythm section players. Are players comfortable with:
 - Alternate notation
 - Comping
 - Reading chord changes
 - Bass: 1/2 position
 - Drums: basic grooves; basic drum set notation
- Know who is interested in improvising/soloing

PERSONALIZE CRITERIA FOR LITERATURE SELECTION

- Keep the strengths of the ensemble in mind
- Engaging/fun to play
- Making Connections with Jazz History
- Begin with the end in mind!
- Scaffold the charts
- Build confidence by starting with very easy selections that use block scoring and/or call response
- Don't be afraid to change direction - if the chart is not working....it's not working
- Have back up charts to go to just in case!

CHARACTERISTICS OF QUALITY BEGINNING AND YOUNG JAZZ ENSEMBLE LITERATURE

- Easy to read
- Articulations are clear and consistent

- There are repetitious elements (melodies, rhythm section parts) - builds confidence!!
- Room For Solos/Guide Solos
- Improvisation Sections have Limited Harmonic Palettes
- Rhythm Section parts are carefully notated
- Guitar parts have limited technical demands
- Piano voicings are age level appropriate
- Bass lines/figures are repetitious & attainable
- Drum parts are easy to decode (or to explain)

EVALUATION OF LITERATURE CHOICES

- Is this chart working?
- YES > GREAT!!
- NO> WHY?
- Big picture issues
- Not buying in
- Too difficult for too many players and/or key players.....at that moment
- Smaller issues - can they be solved?

COMPOSER AND ARRANGERS OF QUALITY BEGINNING AND INTERMEDIATE JAZZ LITERATURE

- Dean Sorenson
- Terry White
- Carl Strommen
- Mike Dana
- Peter Blair
- Doug Beach
- Mark Taylor
- Rick Stitzel
- Mike Steinel
- Paul Baker
- Greg Yasinitsky

- Paul Murtha
- Zachary Smith
- Rick Hirsch
- Kris Berg
- Michele Fernandez
- Peter Sciaino

FAVORITE "GO TO" CHARTS

- SWING
(Beginning of year)
 - C-Jam Blues (Duke Ellington/arr. Rick Stitzel)
 - Centerpiece (Harry "Sweets" Edison/arr. Mike Story)
 - Monkey See, Monkey Do (Rick Stitzel)
 - Avenue Swing (Mike Collins-Dowden)
 - Flat Tire Shuffle (Dean Soreson) - FLEX TITLE
 - Blue Train (John Coltrane/arr. Paul Murtha)
 - Splanky (Neal Hefti/Roy Phillippe)
 - Blues In Hoss' Flat (Frank Foster/arr. Rick Stitzel)
 - Absolutely, Postively (Gregory Yasinitsky)
 - Cherry Point (Neal Hefti/arr. Roy Phillippe)
 - Blue & Moody (Mike Sweeney)
 - Topsy (Eddie Durham/aar. Rick Stitzel)
- Even 8th's
(Beginning of year)
 - Listen Here (Eddie Harris/arr. Victor Lopez)
 - Funky Monkey (Rick Stitzel)
 - Night & Day (Cole Porter/arr. Lopez)
 - Song for Silver (Peter Blair)
 - Caravan (Juan Tizol/arr. John Barry)
 - Bubbert Goes Retro (Mike Steinel)

- Wade in the Water (Zachary Smith)
- Poco Loco (Carl Strommen)
- Little Sunflower (Freddie Hubbard/arr. Mike Story)

- Swing
(middle to end of year)
 - Birks Works (Dizzy Gillespie/arr. Rick Stitzel)
 - My Groove, Your Move (Hank Mobley/arr. Terry White)
 - Work Song (Nat Adderley/arr. Terry White)
 - Uptown Throwdown (Zachary Smith)
 - Fat Cat (Doug Beach)
 - Take the "A" Train (Billy Strayhorn/arr. Vince Gassi)
 - Misty (Erroll Garner/arr. Terry White)
 - Blues in Hoss' Flat (Frank Foster/arr. Mark Taylor)
 - 13 O' Clock Jump (Zachary Smith)
 - Beantown Blues Parade (Rick Hirsch)
 - Five Spot After Dark (Benny Golson/arr. Mike Story)
 - One Cool Morning (Dean Sorenson)
 - Freddie Freeloader (Miles Davis/arr. Michael Sweeney)
 - Top Dog (Gregory Yasinitsky)
 - Now's The Time (Charlie Parker/arr. Paul Murtha)
 - Sonnymoon For Two (Sonny Rollins/arr. Paul Murtha)
 - Whirly Bird (Neal Hefti/arr. Pater Blair)
 - Lullaby of Birdland (George Shearing/arr. Rick Stitzel)
 - Fried Pies (Wes Montgomery/arr. Mike Dana)

- Even 8th's
(middle to end of year)
 - Big Sky (Dean Sorenson)
 - Tu Valor (Michele Fernandez)

- Midnight Creeper (Lou Donaldson/arr. Terry White)
- Curacao Blue (Zachary Smith)
- Sideways Walking Dog (Zachary Smith)
- Alligator Boogaloo (Lou Donaldson/arr. Terry White)
- Steep and Deep (Jeff Jarvis)
- Song For Orpheus (Mike Dana)
- Sidewinder (Lee Morgan/arr. Paul Murtha)
- Cubano Chant (Ray Bryant/Mike Story)
- Como Te Va (Carl Strommen)
- Only Trust Your Heart (Benny Carter/Terry White)
- Soul Chicken (Kris Berg)
- Time To Testify (Jeff Jarvis)
- Wind Dancer (Jon Phelps)