

Learning Tunes By Ear and Arranging Charts as a Team In Jazz Band Rehearsal

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- **Learning the melody**
 - Call and Response
 - Listen, sing, play/wash, rinse, repeat
 - Chunk smaller segments, then put together
 - Iconic Recordings
 - Listen, sing, play
 - Transcription software/apps
 - Use Scales ONLY if it applies to the melody and will help kids learn it... for now.
 - Choose melodies that are great, and that are appropriate for your ensemble (**see appendix**)

- **Learning the Bass line**
 - How to create bass lines
 - Roots
 - 123
 - 321
 - Root, b7
 - 1235
 - 5321
 - 1656
 - Leading Tones/Chromatic Tones/Half Step Approaches
 - Apply these patterns to the form of the song
 - Avoid getting hung up on the theory- If the kids know WHAT to play but don't exactly know WHY, that's OK!
 - Use Roman Numerals to identify chords- save the time of having to transpose EVERYTHING for them, EVERY TIME.
 - Make sure you're choosing the song with the level of your group in mind

- **Learning the Piano/Guitar part**
 - Guide Tones (3rds and 7ths are best friends- "shake hands")
 - Learn this either THEORY-BASED, or EAR-BASED
 - Color Tones (add chord arpeggios/extensions to the bass line/pattern exercise)
 - Apply the above to the form of the song

- **Improvising with the tools we have so far**
 - Everyone solos, every time--This is too important to skip or run away from!
 - No excuses for WHAT to play, we have a full "toolbox" at this point
 - Brave is better than perfect
 - Celebrate every victory

- **Creating Backgrounds using the tools we have so far**
 - Each kid takes 2 improvised solo choruses, first time no backgrounds, second time choose a bass pattern/guide tones/riff to play as a solo background. This takes the attention off the soloist for a bit (if they're nervous) and keeps the band engaged with the solo section and form even if they aren't actively improvising.
 - Background types
 - Pads
 - Hits
 - Riffs

- **Adding the "Book Ends": Intro and Outro**
 - Rhythm Section/solo up front
 - Vamp up front
 - Orchestrate the melody in an interesting way
 - Tag endings (with or without modulation)
 - Short endings (unison)
 - Long endings (harmony)

- **Adding the "Extra Toppings"**
 - Orchestration
 - Harmonization
 - Shouts
 - Shout sections can be a group-composed effort- as you're working on improvisation/licks/vocabulary, create a shout chorus as a group. Either memorize or write it down. Good exercise in transposition either way.
 - Unison, or make it a goal to learn block voicing/4 and 5-part voicings/chord substitutions
 - Background types
 - Pads
 - Hits
 - Riffs

- **Putting it all together**
 - By memory, or written down
 - Will it be the same every time you perform it?
 - Visual cues from director
 - Musical cues from the band
 - Turn it into a game?

Appendix: Recommended Tunes

Blues

Blues in the Closet, Oscar Pettiford **easy**

Blues By Five, Miles Davis **easy**

Blue Train, John Coltrane **easy**

Blue Trombone, JJ Johnson **easy**

Centerpiece, Harry Edison/Jon Hendricks **easy**

Chitlins Con Carne, Kenny Burrell (Bossa) **easy**

C Jam Blues/Duke's Place, Duke Ellington **easy**

Equinox, John Coltrane **easy**

Five Spot After Dark, Curtis Fuller (*minor blues*) **easy**

Freddie Freeloader, Miles Davis **easy**

Mr. PC, John Coltrane (*Minor Blues*) **easy**

Night Train/Happy Go Lucky Local, Duke Ellington/Jimmy Forrest **easy/med**

One For Daddy-O (*minor blues*) **easy**

One O' Clock Jump, Count Basie **easy**

Sonnymoon for Two, Sonny Rollins **easy**

Splanky, Neal Hefti **easy** (*medium if you learn the shout/harmony*)

Tenor Madness, Sonny Rollins **easy**

Blue Monk, Thelonious Monk **medium easy**

Blues In a Jiff, Jackie McLean **medium easy**

Bluesette, Curtis Fuller **medium easy**

Easin' It, Frank Foster/Basie Band **medium easy**

Joe Avery's Blues (Second Line) **medium easy**

Pound Cake, Basie Band **medium easy**

Straight No Chaser, Thelonious Monk **medium easy**

Work Song, Nat Adderley **medium easy**

Basin Street Blues, Spencer Williams- popularized by Louis Armstrong **medium**

Birk's Works, Dizzy Gillespie (*minor blues*) **medium**

The Blues Walk, Clifford Brown **medium**

Now's the Time, Charlie Parker **medium**

The Sidewinder, Lee Morgan (*long-form blues*) **medium**

Billie's Bounce, Charlie Parker **medium difficult**

Blues Walk, Lou Donaldson **medium difficult**

Rhythm Changes

Lester Leaps In, Lester Young **medium**

Oleo, Sonny Rollins **medium**

Rhythm-a-ning, Thelonious Monk **medium**

Salt Peanuts, Dizzy Gillespie **medium**

Minor

St. James Infirmary, popularized by Louis Armstrong **easy**

Footprints, Wayne Shorter **medium easy**

Moanin', Benny Golson **medium easy**

Song For My Father, Horace Silver (Bossa) **medium easy**

Blue Bossa, Kenny Dorham (Bossa) **medium**

Impressions, John Coltrane **medium FORM**

Sugar, Stanley Turrentine **medium**

Moanin', Charles Mingus **medium difficult- bridge, otherwise easy and riff-based**

Rock/Funk/Other

Cissy Strut, The Meters (Funk/Street Beat) **easy**

Cold Duck Time, Eddie Harris (rock) **easy**

Do Whatcha Wanna, Rebirth Brass Band (street beat, or whatever style you want) **easy**

Watermelon Man, Herbie Hancock **easy**

Chameleon, Herbie Hancock (Rock) **medium easy- range**

Birdland, Joe Zawinul **medium**

The Chicken, Pee Wee Ellis/popularized by Jaco Pastorius (Funk) **medium**

Mercy Mercy Mercy, Joe Zawinul (swing or rock) **medium- bridge is tricky**

Straight Eighths/Bossa

Limbo Jazz, Duke Ellington **medium easy**

Song For My Father, Horace Silver **medium easy**

Blue Bossa, Kenny Dorham **medium**

My Little Suede Shoes, Charlie Parker **medium**

One Note Samba, Antonio Carlos Jobim **medium**

Road Song, Wes Montgomery **medium**

St Thomas, Sonny Rollins **medium**

Standard/Swing

When the Saints Go Marching In, Traditional- popularized by Louis Armstrong **easy**

Green Chimneys, Thelonius Monk **medium-easy FORM**

Doxy, Sonny Rollins **medium**

Jumpin' At The Woodside, Eddie Durham/Basie Band (AABA fast swing) **medium**

Killer Joe, Benny Golson **medium- bridge**

Mercy Mercy Mercy, Joe Zawinul (swing or rock) **medium- bridge**

Satin Doll, Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn **medium**

Summertime, George Gershwin **medium**

Moten Swing, Benny Moten, recorded by MANY including Basie Band **medium hard- bridge**

Shiny Stockings, Frank Foster **medium hard**