

McNary HS Jazz
Saxophone Masterclass
March 18, 2017

Warm Ups for a Bigger Sound

1) Breathing Exercises:

Use your lungs to their full potential. Breathe deep and LOW.

Exercise: (use your hands for guidance when breathing deep and low)

- Breathe in and blow out at equal quarter note pulse (8&8, 6&6, etc)
- Breathe in at larger intervals than you blow out. (8&4, 6&3, 8&2, etc)
- Breathe in at smaller intervals than you blow out. (4&5, 3&6, etc.)

2) Long Tones:

Once you are using your lungs to their full potential, long tones will help you develop a large, beautiful sound. (Be sure to always breathe deep and low.)

Exercise:

Interval Warm Up:

1) Starting on middle "Bb", sustain a solid, loud tone

2) Without stopping, finger "A" (Half-step lower)

One full and complete breath should be used entirely between these two notes

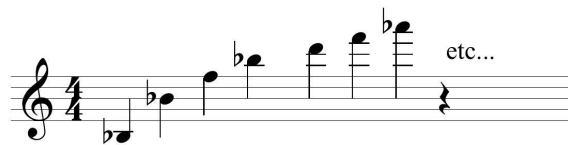
3) Repeat exercise between Bb and Ab, continuing downward in half steps

Intensity Exercises:

Choose a mid-range note (such as "B" or "A") and try to play the full range of dynamics on this one note as smoothly and flawlessly as possible. Practice going from pp to ff then back to pp. Also try going from ff to pp and back to ff. *Learning to control your volume will make your sound more versatile and flexible.

Overtones:

Try experimenting with the overtone series while fingering low Bb. Overtones are "hidden" sounds within a pure tone. While fingering low Bb, you should be able to achieve a few different pitches by altering your air stream.



Jazz Technique

1) Embouchure

Using a lot of good, centered air does no good at all if your embouchure is too tight. A good jazz tone requires a much looser embouchure than you would use in concert band.

To Find Your Good Embouchure:

- 1) "OOO" or "UHHH" make this shape with your mouth.
- 2) Slowly put mouthpiece into this mouth-shape without changing
- 3) Keep your jaw low and slowly close your lips around the mouthpiece
- 4) Lightly cover bottom teeth with bottom lip (about 50% of your lip should be visible)
- 5) Breathe in deeply
- 6) and blow HARD

*This exercise is designed to give you the loosest of embouchures. Experiment with adding slightly more or less pressure with your lips or jaw.

2) Articulation

Articulating in a jazz style is very different from the articulations in classical music. Listening to jazz is probably the best way to really understand swing eighth notes and tonguing.

a). Swing Eighth Notes: In both solo and section playing, it is important to have a unified interpretation of swing eighth notes.

Things to remember:

- 1) Keep the eighth notes legato (long) with steady air stream
- 2) Articulate off-beats (eventually add first, highest and last note articulations)
- 3) Start with straight 8ths, eventually switch to swing feel.

b). Marcato and Staccato Accents:

Marcato: (house-top accent) Longer than a staccato accent, shorter than a regular accent.

- active release at the end (tongue hits the reed HARD)
- use tons of air
- "daht"

Staccato: As short as you can play.

In most swing or latin big band jazz music, staccato means VERY short.

Tips and Advice for Becoming a Great Musician

1. Get high quality equipment. (A good mouthpiece and plenty of reeds)
2. Learn your scales. Start with majors, but learn ALL of them. Play them up and down, in 3rds and 4ths and at many tempos and articulations.
3. Transcribe your favorite players for both solo ideas and tone development.
4. Listen! You need to know what jazz sounds like to be able to play it!
5. Be a leader. Call extra sectionals/practices/jam sessions.
6. Take every musical opportunity you can.
7. Take private lessons (College students often offer more affordable lessons.)
8. Take the time to learn standard tunes (Real Books/transcription)
9. Go to concerts! (University ones are either free or offer student discounts)
10. Enjoy your practice!

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Soprano

Sidney Bechet
Jane Ira Bloom
John Coltrane
Joe Farrell
Jan Garbarek
Christine Jensen
Rahsaan Roland Kirk
Pat LaBarbera
Steve Lacy
Dave Liebman
Branford Marsalis
Jerome Richardson
Wayne Shorter
Steve Wilson

Alto

Cannonball Adderley
Sharel Cassity
Benny Carter
Richie Cole
Ornette Coleman
Steve Coleman
Pattie Cossentino
Sonny Criss
Paul Desmond
Eric Dolphy
Lou Donaldson
Jimmy Dorsey
Paquito D'Rivera
Paul Desmond
Peter Epstein
Kenny Garrett
Gigi Gryce
Johnny Hodges
Gary Keller
Lee Konitz
Rudresh Mahanthappa
Charlie Mariano
Eric Marienthal
Branford Marsalis

Jackie McLean
Lennie Niehaus
Oliver Nelson
Dick Oatts
Greg Osby
Charlie Parker
Art Pepper
Dave Pietro
Vi Redd
Marshal Royal
Bud Shank
Jim Snidero
Sonny Stitt
Steve Wilson
Phil Woods
Miguel Zenon
John Zorn

Tenor

Eric Alexander
Melissa Aldana
Gene Ammons
Chu Berry
Bob Berg
Jerry Bergonzi
Seamus Blake
Michael Brecker
Don Byas
Chris Cheek
Jeff Clayton
Jeff Coffin
Anat Cohen
Al Cohn
George Coleman
John Coltrane
Ravi Coltrane
Roxy Coss
Pete Christlieb
Eddie Daniels
Eddie "Lockjaw" Davis
Frank Foster
Stan Getz

Victor Goines
Benny Golson
Paul Gonsalves
Scheila Gonzalez
Dexter Gordon
Johnny Griffin
Steve Grossman
Coleman Hawkins
Jimmy Heath
Joe Henderson
Harold Land
Yusef Lateef
Charles Lloyd
Joe Lovano
Branford Marsalis
Warne Marsh
Bob Mintzer
Hank Mobley
Oliver Nelson
Sal Nistico
Rich Perry
Chris Potter
Dewey Redman
Joshua Redman
Sonny Rollins
David Sanchez
Zoot Sims
Wayne Shorter
Lucky Thompson
Stanley Turrentine
Ben Webster
Nancy Wright
Lester Young

Baritone

Pepper Adams
Hammett Blueitt
Nick Brignola
Harry Carney
Serge Chaloff
Ronnie Cuber
Charlie Fowlkes
Bob Gordon
Lars Gullin
Bruce Johnstone
Gerry Mulligan
Jack Nimitz
Pat Patrick
Scott Robinson
Sahib Shihab
Gary Smulyan
John Surman
Joe Temperley
Leo Parker
Cecil Payne