

PROGRAMMING AND REHEARSAL TECHNIQUES

FOR BEGINNING JAZZ BAND

SELECTING MUSIC

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL?

- Musicfest - traditional jazz and modern jazz
- Entertainment - pop tunes
- Educational value - what will they learn (articulation, rhythms, styles, improvisation, etc.)

WHAT ARE YOUR PLAYERS ABILITIES?

- experience (playing in general AND jazz)
- range limitation (specifically brass)
- ability to read (by sight or by practice)
- instrumentation/required parts
- students' interests and your goals

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Before buying, listen to the piece AND look at the score (taking you players abilities into consideration)
- Consider composers you've already used
- Do you want your band to struggle to learn ONE chart that sounds good, or do you want your band to sound good on TWO charts?

STYLES

Swing

- characterized by a triplet subdivision and uses 'uneven' eighth notes
- subtle stress of beats 2 and 4

Rock

- relies on a solid backbeat (emphasis on beats 2 and 4)
- straight eighth subdivision
- repeated patterns

Shuffle

- a cross between swing and rock styles by stressing the backbeat and using the triplet subdivision
- groove primarily created by bass and drums

Mambo

- Afro-Cuban style with stress on the 'and of 2'
- straight-eighth subdivision

Samba

- a light, Brazilian-based style with stress is ON beat 3
- relies on straight-eighth subdivision
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Funk

- sixteenth note subdivision and syncopation, particularly in the bass, are prevalent
- beats 2 and 4 prominent in snare drum
- often complex, unison lines performed by horns

Ballad

- a slow tempo, jazz ballad flows seamlessly through various subdivisions (straight-eighth, triplet, or double time)
- needs space; laid back feel

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BELWIN'S JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

- scored 2 parts per instrument and rhythm section
- LOTS of doubling/unison
- lower brass range
- scored with flute, clarinets
- grade 1-1.5



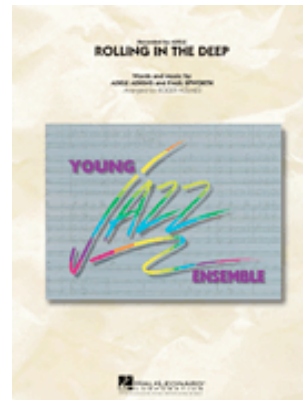
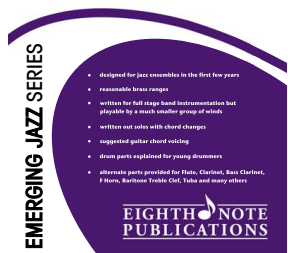
BELWIN'S JAZZ BEGINNINGS SERIES

- scored for traditional stage band
- often unison parts
- higher brass range
- scored with flute
- grade 1.5-2



EIGHTH NOTE'S EMERGING JAZZ SERIES

- scored for full sax section, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, and rhythm section
- often unison parts
- lower brass range
- guitar chord and drum rhythm pages included
- grade 1-1.5



HAL LEONARD'S YOUNG JAZZ ENSEMBLE SERIES

- scored for traditional stage band
- often unison parts
- higher brass range
- scored with flute
- grade 2



HAL LEONARD'S DISCOVERY JAZZ SERIES

- scored for full sax section, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones, and rhythm section
- often unison parts
- lower brass range
- occasionally range is higher
- grade 1-1.5



KENDOR'S JAZZ GATEWAY SERIES

- scored for traditional stage band
- often unison parts
- higher brass range
- scored with flute
- written out solo sheets
- grade 2



DOUG BEACH JAZZ FOUNDATION SERIES

- scored for 4 horn ensemble with rhythm section
- lots of part doubling/unison
- higher brass range
- optional flute, clarinet, horn
- solo sheets
- grade 1.5



BARNHOUSE'S JAZZ ENSEMBLE SERIES

- scored for traditional stage band
- often unison parts
- higher brass range
- no additional parts included
- written out solo sheets
- grade 1.5-2







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THE FIRST REHEARSAL

- Focus on learning the style(s), not a specific song
 - the first few songs are always a slow start, but eventually your players will ‘get the idea’ and will learn a chart in a few rehearsals
- Rhythm section solidity
 - have the drummer lay down a simple beat (rock, latin, swing)
 - have the bass player play a simple bass line on the tonic chord (root only, rock and swing; root-fifth motion for latin)
- Get the band to play like an ensemble
 - get the rhythm section playing together
 - have the band play a warm-up to learn the different feels
 - have the horns play some ‘jazzy’ rhythms
- Introduce the articulating style
 - teach your members how to articulate the symbols properly
 - sing some pre-determined rhythms from your band’s repertoire

ARTICULATION

 - DAH - long	 - TUT - short accent
 - DIT - short	 - DAHT - long-stop
 - TAH - long accent	 - DOO-DAH - swing

STARTING A CHART

- Lock in the groove
 - start with drummer, add bass, then piano/guitar
- Sing it - Play it - Pitch it
 - focus on articulation, rhythm, and style
- Unison parts first (the dangers)
 - get everyone playing
 - include melodies that repeat at different parts of the song
- Learn to listen
 - how the parts work together
- Follow the road map
 - know the repeats, first/second endings, DCs and DSs, Coda

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JAZZ RHYTHM WARM-UPS

SCORE

RYAN MEEBOER

