

# Teaching Jazz Band

# Instrumentation

- Standard Instrumentation
  - Saxophones- 2 altos, 2 Tenors, 1 Baritone
    - Can add Soprano or Clarinet in place of alto
  - 4 Trombones- 3 Tenor, 1 Bass
  - 4 Trumpets (5 Trumpets)
    - Can double on Flugelhorn
  - Rhythm- Drums, Piano, Bass, Guitar, Vibes, and Aux Percussion
    - Minimum is Bass, Drums and a Chord instrument

# Instrumentation

- Alternate Instrumentation
  - Woodwinds can play on Sax
  - Tuba play Bone 4
  - Baritone on Trombone
  - Flute playing Vibe/Piano part

Never refuse a player into an ensemble due to their instrument

Don't be afraid to allow more than the standard amount into the ensemble. All should be encouraged to participate.

# Rhythm Section

- Bass
  - Establishes Groove
  - Should have a good sense of time
  - Recruit from outside of Band
  - Most important member of Band
  - Bass lines consist primarily of triads and lead ins to next chord
  - <http://www.creativekeyboard.com/backissues/>

# Rhythm Section

- Piano
  - Adds color and rhythm to the bass line
  - Comping- improvising rhythmic patterns on chords
  - Solos over chord changes
- “The Jazz Piano Book” by Mark Levine

# Rhythm Section

- Drums
  - Creates groove along with Bass
  - Spang a Lang
  - Feathered bass and hi hat
  - Kicks, lead in, Fills, Hits
  - Vic Firth “Groove Essentials”

# Horns

- Trumpet
  - 4 or 5 part harmony
  - 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> given most solos
  - Stands on risers in back row
  - Order from Left to Right: 2<sup>nd</sup> , 1<sup>st</sup> , 3<sup>rd</sup> , 4<sup>th</sup> ,(5<sup>th</sup> )

# Horns

- Trombones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> or 1<sup>st</sup> given solos
  - Lowest section in Band
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Trombone along with Bari plays lowest part of harmony
  - Order from Left to Right: 2<sup>nd</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Stands in front of Trumpets



# Horns

- Saxophones
  - 5 part Harmony
  - Bari frequently plays with Brass
  - Tenor 1 plays solos primarily
  - Replaced clarinets as primary woodwind instrument
  - Sits in front of band
  - Order: 1<sup>st</sup> Tenor, 2<sup>nd</sup> Alto, 1<sup>st</sup> Alto, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tenor,

# Musical Styles

- Large variety
  - Swing
    - Big Band
    - Modern
  - Latin
  - Ballad
  - Rock
  - Funk

# Swing

- Swung eighth notes
  - Doo Vah Doo Vah Doo Vah
- Walking Bass Line
- Accent on 2 and 4
- Syncopation
- Originated with Big Bands from the swing era
- Required at most jazz festivals

# Latin

- Straight eighths
- Clave rhythm
- Simplified rhythm: cross stick on 2 and 4
- Required style for many jazz festivals
- Do sol pattern in bass

# Ballad

- Often features a soloist
- Can be straight or swung
- Sparse rhythm in piano and drums
- Longer tones in base
- Required at most Jazz Festivals

# Rock and Funk

- Popular styles with strong back beat
- Not required literature
- Straight
- Focus on rhythm

# Jazz Style

- The best way to learn Jazz Style is LISTENING!!!
- Sing melodies (scatting)
- Imitation
- Accent on 2 and 4
- DOO VA DOO VA
- Spang a Lang
- Originates from the Rhythm Section and “Lead” Players

# Names to know

- Piano
  - Count Basie
  - Art Tatum
  - Duke Ellington
  - Herbie Hancock
  - Thelonious Monk
- Saxophone
  - John Coltrane
  - Sonny Rollins
  - Dexter Gordon
  - Lester Young
  - Cannonball Adderly
- Trombone
  - J.J. Johnson
  - Glenn Miller
  - Tommy Dorsey
  - Curtis Fuller
- Trumpet
  - Louis Armstrong
  - Miles Davis
  - Clifford Brown
  - Dizzy Gillespie
  - Lee Morgan
  - Maynard Ferguson



# Names to Know

- Bass
  - Charlie Mingus
  - Ray Brown
  - Stanley Clarke
  - Ray Brown
- Drums
  - Tim Fronceck
  - Buddy Rich
  - Max Roach
  - Art Blakey
  - Gene Krupa
- Vocalists
  - Frank Sinatra
  - Louis Armstrong
  - Ella Fitzgerald
  - Nat “King” Cole
- Band Leaders
  - Art Tatum
  - Glenn Miller
  - Tommy Dorsey
  - Les Brown
  - Benny Goodman (clarinet)

# Bands to know

- Count Basie Big Band
- Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Glenn Miller Big Band
- Tommy Dorsey Orchestra
- Gordin Goodwin's Big Phat Band
- Lincoln Center
- Universities

# Notation

- Dotted eighth sixteenth = triplet
- Hand Written
- Hard to read
- Wrong Notes
- Style implied
  - Short Quarters
  - Accented 2 and 4
  - Syncopation

# Improvisation

- Blues Scale
  - 3rds and 7ths= Guiding Tones
  - Eighth note lines
  - Call and response
  - ii V I progressions
  - Play scales and arpeggios
  - Less is more!!!
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- Jamey Aebersold books are a GREAT resource

# Additional Resources

- Contact local directors
- Contact Local Musicians/ Colleagues
- NAFME Jazz Board
- College directors and teachers
  - Mike Drost
  - Tim Fronceck
  - Diego Riviera
- Jazz Festivals
  - Alma
  - CMU
  - MSU
  - MSBOA