



## 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)
- 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)

- 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)
  - Misty (Erroll Garner/arr. Terry White)
  - Blues in Hoss' Flat (Frank Foster/arr. Mark Taylor)
  - 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)
  
- Even 8th's  
(middle to end of year)
  - El Mercader de Groove (Mike Dana)
  - Curacao Blue (Zachary Smith)
  - Sideways Walking Dog (Zachary Smith)
  - Alligator Boogaloo (Lou Donaldson/arr. Terry White)
  - Big Sky (Dean Sorenson)
  - 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)