



Teaching Improvisation to your High School Jazz Band

**CLINICIAN:
Tim McWright, Jr.**

Texas Bandmasters Association 2014 Convention/Clinic



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SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



TBA 2014

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STUDENT NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Outline on How To Teach To Improvise:

1. All Major Scales (a MUST to start). Do them chromatically (Bb, B, C, C#, etc.)
2. The Chords found in the Major Scales
 - a. Learn and be able to play them (see attachment A)
 - b. Learn 12 I Chords (C maj7, C# maj7, etc.)
 - c. Learn 12 II Chords (C min7, C#min7, etc.)
 - d. Learn 12 V Chords (C7, C#7, etc.)
3. Scales that go with the Chords (Modes) (see attachment A)
 - a. Demo C Maj Scale
 - b. Have them go home and write out the other 11.
4. Goal Note Method:
 - a. Chord tones on the beat
 - b. Bebop Scale and why
5. Arpeggio is more important than Scale
6. Major and Hybrid Scales (Chords with notes in-between)
 - a. Demo major
 - b. Demo hybrid
7. Practice Techniques
 - a. Play the melody of the song
 - b. Play the root of each chord
 - c. Play the roots and thirds



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- d. Play the thirds and sevenths
- e. Play the Arpeggios
- f. Play the Scales best suited for the Chords
- g. Practice a prescribed formula for each Chord (Demo)
- 8. Play Ideas (licks). Make ideas relate
 - a. Motif (lick)
 - b. Transpose motif
 - c. Same rhythm
 - d. Same contour
- 9. The 12 Bar Blues (three 4 Bar Phrases)
- 10. Listen to the right people (see Discography below). People playing the style that you want to teach/learn:
 - a. Jazz Swing (the old players)
 - b. Bebop (like Charlie Parker, the inventor of Bebop, Sonny Stitt, Cannonball Adderly – look them up on YouTube)
 - c. Kenny G – NO, NO absolutely NO – smooth Jazz
- 11. Discography
 - a. Julian Cannonball Adderly, *Live in San Francisco* (Riverside 12-311), Cannonball Adderly Quintet
 - b. Ornette Coleman, *Something Else* (Contemporary S-7551), Ornette Coleman
 - c. John Coltrane, *A Love Supreme* (Impulse A-77), John Coltrane Quartet
 - d. John Coltrane, *Giant Steps* (Atlantic 1311), John Coltrane Quartet
 - e. John Coltrane, *Lush Life* (Prestige S-7581), John Coltrane Group
 - f. Miles Davis, *E.S.P.* (Columbia CS-9150), Miles Davis Quintet
 - g. Miles Davis, *In a Silent Way* (Columbia CS-9875), Miles Davis Group
 - h. Miles Davis, *Kinda Blue* (Columbia CS-8153), Miles Davis Sextet



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- i. Coltrane, John. *The Heavyweight Champion: The Complete Atlantic Recordings*. Atlantic Recording Corporation, 1995. CD Box Set
- j. Mingus, Charles. *Passions of a Man: The Complete Atlantic Recordings 1956-1961*. Atlantic Recording Corporation, 1997. CD Box Set.
- k. Porter, Lewis ed. *The John Coltrane Reference*. (New York: Routledge, 2008).
- l. Raben, Erik, et al. *Jazz Records 1942-1980: a discography*. (Copenhagen, Denmark: Stainless/Wintermoon, c1980-c1995) v.1-8
- m. Sheridan, Chris. *Dis Here: a bio-discography of Julian "Cannonball" Adderley*. (Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 2000).
- n. Szwed, John. *So What: The Life of Miles Davis*. London: Arrow Books, 2002
- o. Togashi, Nobuaki, Kohji 'Shaolin' Matsubayashi & Masayuki Hatta. *The Jazz Discography Project*. jazzdisco.org. Web resource <<http://jazzdisco.org>> June 22, 2012.
- p. Coleman Hawkins - *The Best of Coleman Hawkins* (Original Jazz Classics, a 2004 compilation of 1958-1962 recordings
- q. Eric Dolphy - SLA1100 *Pete's Beat Savoy* MG 9026, SJL 2215
- r. Eric Dolphy - SLA1101 *Sippin' With Cisco, Part 1* Savoy SJL 2215
- s. Eric Dolphy - SLA1102 *Sippin' With Cisco, Part 2*
- t. Dexter Gordon - *Mas1892 I've Found A New Baby Mercury 8900, 15003; Phoenix Jazz LP 5; Masters Of Jazz MJCD 112 Masters Of Jazz MJCD 112* Dexter Gordon, Vol. 1 Young Dex 1941-1944