



Building a Better Big Band with the Jazz Ambassadors

CLINICIAN:

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DEMONSTRATION GROUP:

The Jazz Ambassadors

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**HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**



Jazz Ambassadors

America's Big Band
Washington, DC

SELECTED RESOURCES FOR JAZZ ENSEMBLE

The following is a brief list of recordings, texts and equipment that members of the band use, have used, or have worked with while teaching. It is by no means complete as there is so much available on the market today. However, it should provide a place for your students to start.

Suggested recordings: One of the most important things students can do is listen to jazz as often as possible. With that in mind the following list was compiled by members of the Jazz Ambassadors to serve as a starting point for listening and provide students with clear examples of style and sound.

Big Bands

1. Count Basie- The Atomic Basie
2. Count Basie- Chairman of the Board
3. Duke Ellington- The Blanton/Webster Recordings
4. Duke Ellington- The Great Paris Concert
5. Buddy Rich- Swingin New Big Band
6. Thad Jones-Mel Lewis Orchestra- Dedication
7. Stan Kenton- New Concepts of Artistry In Rhythm
8. Stan Kenton- Contemporary Concepts
9. Mel Lewis Orchestra- The Definitive Thad Jones, Vol. 1
10. Kenny Clarke Francy Boland Big Band- More Smiles

Alto

1. Charlie Parker- Live at Rockland Palace
2. Art Pepper- Meets The Rhythm Section
3. Sonny Stitt- Sits in with the Oscar Peterson Trio
4. Cannonball Adderley- Live in San Francisco
5. Jackie McLean- Jackie's Bag

Tenor

1. John Coltrane- A Love Supreme
2. John Coltrane- Giant Steps
3. Sonny Rollins- Saxophone Colossus
4. Stan Getz- West Coast Jazz
5. Dexter Gordon- Dexter Calling

Baritone

1. Serge Chaloff- Blue Serge
2. Gerry Mulligan- Meets Stan Getz
3. Pepper Adams-(w/ Donald Byrd) Live at the Half Note Cafe
4. Harry Carney- any recording with Duke Ellington
5. Gerry Mulligan- Meets Ben Webster

Trumpet

1. Miles Davis- Kind of Blue
2. Lee Morgan- Sidewinder
3. Clifford Brown- Live at the Cotton Club
4. Dizzy Gillespie- Live at Town Hall
5. Louis Armstrong- The Complete Hot Fives and Hot Sevens

Trombone

1. J.J. Johnson- Live at the Opera House
2. J.J. Johnson- The Eminent J.J. Vol 1
3. Carl Fontana- The Great Fontana
4. Frank Rosolino- Fond Memories Of
5. Jack Teagarden- The Indispensable Jack Teagarden

Guitar

1. Charlie Christian- Genius of the Electric Guitar
2. Freddie Green- Any album with Count Basie
3. Pat Martino- El Hombre
4. Wes Montgomery- Live with the Wynton Kelly Trio
5. Pat Metheny- Bright Size Life

Piano

1. Art Tatum- Genius of the Keyboard
2. Oscar Peterson Trio- We Get Requests
3. Thelonius Monk- Live at Carnegie Hall
4. Bill Evans- Live at the Village Vanguard
5. Red Garland- Red Garland's Piano

Bass

1. Oscar Petersen Trio- We Take Requests (Ray Brown , bass)
2. Paul Chambers- Whims of Chambers
3. Miles Davis- Kind of Blue (Paul Chambers, bass)
4. Duke Ellington- Solos, Duets and Trios (Jimmy Blanton, bass)
5. Sonny Rollins- The Bridge (Bob Cranshaw, bass)

Drums

1. Art Blakey- Moanin'
2. Miles Davis- 'Round Midnight
3. Max Roach (W/Clifford Brown)- Brown and Roach, Inc.
4. Buddy Rich- Big Swing Face
5. Thad Jones/ Mel Lewis- 20 Years at the Vanguard

MOUTHPIECES AND EQUIPMENT:

Questions about mouthpieces or other equipment are fairly common from both instructors and students. As an ensemble we believe that the instructor is the most important part of this process.

Saxophone:

- Alto: Meyer or Vandoren V16 (hard rubber size 5 or 6)
- Tenor: Otto Link, Vandoren V16 or Berg Larsen (hard rubber or metal sizes 5-7)
- Bari: Berg Larsen or Vandoren V16 (hard rubber or metal sizes 5-7)

Trumpet:

- Bach 7C (most common and almost always found in combination with beginner horns),
 - Bach 5C or 3C (may be suggested for players who may be a bit more advanced or physically need more cup space in the mouthpiece due to their lip size)
 - Bach 7E (or the equivalent may be suggested for lead players in jazz band)
- *Pickett Brass has an app which equates mouthpiece brands amongst one another.

Trombone:

- Bach 7c or 12c
- Our section feels that the mouthpieces most students start on, either the Bach 7c or 12c, are great for jazz band. In addition the .500 bore of the beginner trombone is also helpful in developing a jazz sound.

Guitar:

- Gibson hollow body or equivalent
 - ES 175 (Hollow)
 - ES 335 (Semi hollow)
- Medium to heavy gauge strings with wound G.
- Heavy gauge picks
- Tube amp or equivalent (emphasizing the mid range)

Bass:

- Pickup: Fishman "Full Circle"
- Strings: Thomastik Spirocore Orchestral

Drum Set:

- Heads: Remo Ambassadors, Evans Genera or Aquarian Satin Finish.
The most important point being that whatever company you choose make sure the heads are COATED and of medium thickness. Coated heads are necessary for the use of brushes.
- Cymbals: Zildjian "K" or equivalent.
Jazz cymbals should usually have a "dark" sound like the Zildjian "K" cymbals. With so many brands and styles to choose from the Zildjian K's are a great place to start

TEXTS:

Beginning Jazz Band:

- Standard of Excellence Jazz
- Essential Elements Jazz

Individual instrument methods:

- Jazz Conception Series by Jim Snidero
Available in easy and intermediate as well as being offered as a band set.
- Jamey Aebersold has a great site that has hundreds of methods for both conception and improvisation. www.jazzbooks.com

Other good individual texts:

- The Jazz Piano Book by Mark Levine
- Jazz Piano Voicing Skills by Dan Hearle
- Jazz Guitar Voicings Vol.1 by Randy Vincent
- 3-Note Voicings and Beyond by Randy Vincent
- Reading Studies for Guitar by William Leavitt
- Melodic Rhythms for Guitar by William Leavitt
- The Advancing Guitarist by Mick Goodrick
- The Almanac of Guitar Voiceleading volumes 1,2, and 3 by Mick Goodrick
- Jazz Conception for Saxophone by Lennie Niehaus
- Ray Brown's Bass Method Book
- Evolving Upwards by Rufus Reid
- Walking Bass Lines by Mike Richmond
- The Art of Brushes by Ed Thigpen
- The Art of BeBop by John Riley



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