



**Texas Bandmasters Association
Convention/Clinic July 25-27, 2019**

**Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal: From An
Auditory Tradition**

**CLINICIAN:
Jose Diaz**

**Demonstration Group: The Aldine ISD Jazz
Orchestra**



Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal: From An Auditory Tradition

**Jose Antonio Diaz
Diaz Music Institute
MacArthur High School**

**Aldine ISD Jazz Orchestra
Demonstration Group**


Texas Bandmasters Association Convention

Saturday, July 27: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Room: CC 217ABC

Jazz Ensemble Rehearsal: From An Auditory Tradition

How Do We Start?



Understanding Jazz

- Jazz is deeply rooted in the auditory tradition of African music.
- The African approach of master/student relationship is one of observation and imitation.

Understanding Jazz Cont.

- Music was taught by rote, and the master insisted that the student imitated in a verbatim manner the exact phrase with the same feeling and nuances of the performance.
- Generations of jazz musicians learned from their mentors by copying, imitating, and learning their vocabulary – very much like learning to speak a language.

Understanding Jazz Cont.

- Many of the great jazz musicians were not thinking about the theory behind the improvised solos but instead relied heavily on the vocabulary they developed.
- The basic premise was that if it sounded good, then the right note choices were performed.


Understanding Jazz Cont.

- In general, we would never use a word we didn't know the meaning of for fear of looking and sounding foolish to others.
- Jazz performance is very much the same; one must learn the vocabulary defined by the masters and innovators of this art form to create the authentic feeling of the music.

Understanding Jazz Cont.

"In Jazz, improvisation isn't a matter of just making any ol' thing up. Jazz, like any language, has its own grammar and vocabulary. There's no right or wrong, just some choices that are better than others."

Wynton Marsalis



Understanding Jazz Cont.

Getting comfortable with the rhythmic concept of swing is critical to developing an improvisation that swings.

The late great jazz educator Alvin Batiste would always say "there are no wrong notes in jazz, just mispronunciation." He was talking about developing a rhythmic concept that would help you create the swing feel through a jazz dialect.



So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Swing – a form of jazz music where the rhythmic pulse and interpretation of melodic and harmonic material creates a feeling of rocking back and forth.



So How Do We Learn To Swing?

- Before we begin to learn how to swing, we have to know how the concept developed.
- The concept of swing can be traced back to the African rituals of Abakua.

So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Let's chant the following:



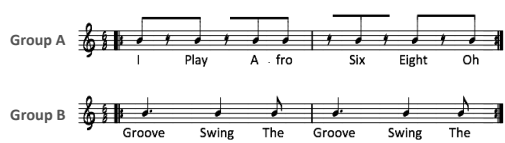
So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Now let's chant the this:



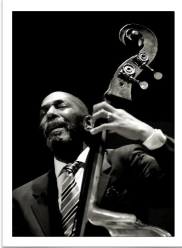
So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Now let's chant them both together:



Developing A Jazz Dialect

Jazz Dialect – the musical pronunciation of the jazz genre. The pronunciation of the jazz language is acquired thru the use of syllables the help create the natural rhythmic feel of swing.



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Jazz, like all other music genre gets its momentum from the interpretation of its rhythm. Rhythm is fundamental to creating the feeling for swing. With that in mind, let's begin our journey by developing the jazz language and understanding the rhythmic feel of swing.

Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Developing a jazz dialect creates a rhythmic understanding through feeling the pulse of the music. The conceptual approach of this jazz dialect is rooted in the feel of the rhythm of spoken syllables. This approach can help develop a natural feel to swing and help players understand the concept of swing.

Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Jazz Dialect is a set of syllables used to develop the concept of swing by using the auditory senses to listen and imitate. The following syllables can help build a solid foundation rhythmically to create the feeling of swing. Like learning to speak a language, let's think of these syllables as jazz vocabulary. Remember jazz like, any other language is verbatim and is developed by listening and imitating.

Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Dot Don Gon

Doo Da Doo Da Tat - tat - tat

Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

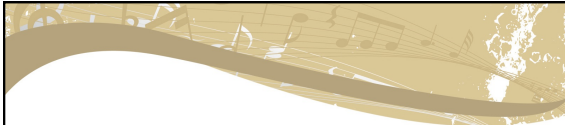
Teach students the melody of the song!

- Learning the melody of the song gives students the opportunity to develop a concept of the language.
- How many of us are comfortable with students leaving our program without being able to play the melody of a tune?



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

One of the most difficult aspects of improvisation is knowing what to play. A good foundation with Jazz Dialect helps players develop improvisation. Jazz Dialect gives players a rhythmic starting point to develop their improvisation.



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

- Get students performing improvisation quickly by starting with rhythmic improvisation.
- Only use the Jazz Dialect that you know well and can recall by memory.
- After using rhythmic improvisation add notes to your Jazz Dialect syllables

Coming Soon!



**ABOUT
that JAZZ**

www.aboutthatjazz.com

For More Info: www.aboutthatjazz.com



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