



Texas Bandmasters Association Convention/Clinic July 22-24, 2021

Building a Top Performing MS Jazz Program

**CLINICIAN:
Karlos Elizondo**



HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER - SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Building A Top Performing MS Jazz Program

(with Bradley MS Jazz Band Demo Group)

Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) Convention 2021

Friday, July 23 3:30-4:30pm

CC Bridge Hall

Building A Top Performing MS Jazz Program is every middle school director's goal and dream. Data has proven how cultivating the 360° music student has a positive effect on music programs in general. Exposure to different styles and ensembles raise a very well-rounded musician that is capable of handling many different music situations. Establishing a top-level jazz ensemble not only raises the self-confidence of your students, but integrating these students into other ensembles (Concert Band, Full Orchestra, Musical Pits, Choir) can have a positive effect on those ensembles...much like their participation in *those* ensembles can help your program as well.

There are many clinics, methods, and ideas on how to establish a Middle School jazz band, but rarely do we see literature or clinics involving how to take them to the next level once a jazz band has been established. Many of the techniques that you will see today are not regularly taught, but rather witnessed and learned. Karlos Elizondo will provide a few tips and techniques that he has learned throughout his career as both an educator and professional musician. During this session we will present and perform these ideas and techniques as used in the Bradley Middle School Jazz Band.

Topics to be discussed:

1. Why Jazz?

- a. Independent thinking
- b. Complexity of music
- c. Blooms Taxonomy (Music Version) *diagram 1, 2, 3*

2. Starting the Year

- a. Rock style first? Why? *Area 51 - diagram 4*
- b. Tradition (*not traditional*) song

3. Listening

- a. Ensemble Listening (Basic Listening)
- b. Stylistic Listening (Upper-Level Listening)
- c. Articulations *Adios Muchachos - diagram 5 & 6*
- d. "Sit & Soak"
 - How to listen
 - Imitate, Assimilate, Innovate
- e. Live Listening

4. Extra Resources (*not discussed but included for your reference*)

- a. Ensemble setup options
 - Rehearsal block *diagram 7*
 - Tradition setup *diagram 7*
 - "V" setup *diagram 9*

Diagrams

Diagram 1: Bloom's Taxonomy (Traditional)

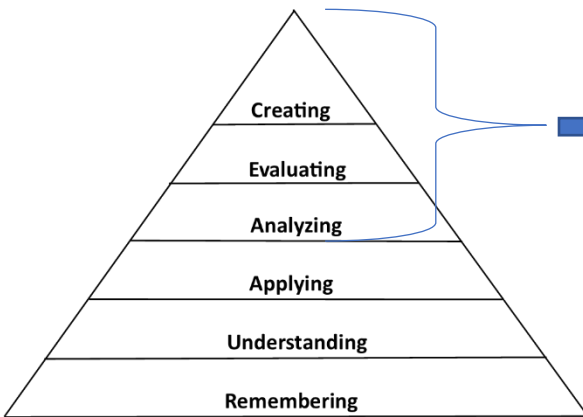


Diagram 2: Bloom's Taxonomy (top tiers)

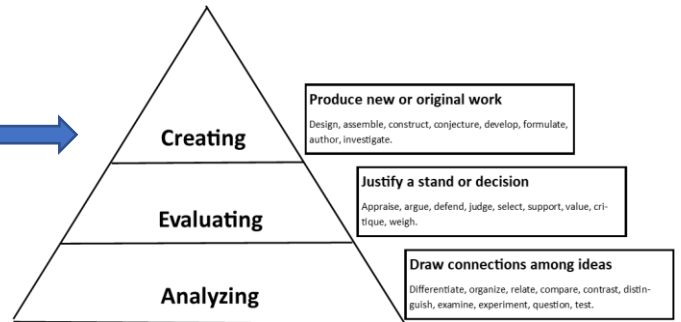


Diagram 3: Bloom's Taxonomy (music version)

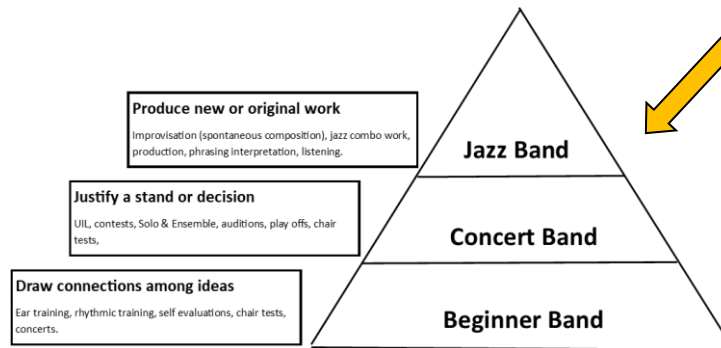


Diagram 4: Rock Style Song

AREA 51
by Larry Barton

Drums
Drums

DRIVING ROCK ♩ = 140

031-3008-00

CONCELL

CEASE

FILL

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

FILL

Diagram 5: Articulation Song

ADIOS MUCHACHOS

Music by JULIO SANDERS
Arranged by DAVE WOLPE

1st E♭ALTO SAXOPHONE

Tempo di Tango

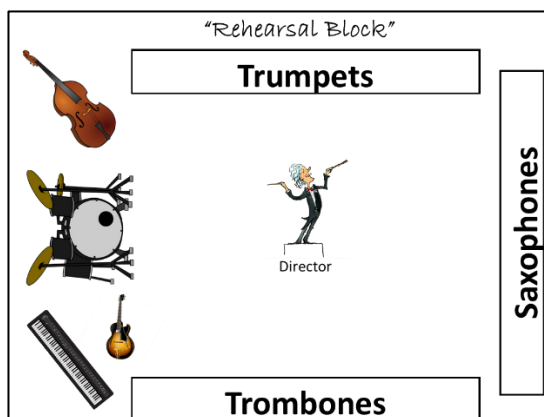
fz mf

Diagram 6: Articulation Syllables

>	dah
—	doo
.	dit
^	dot

Diagrams (con't.)

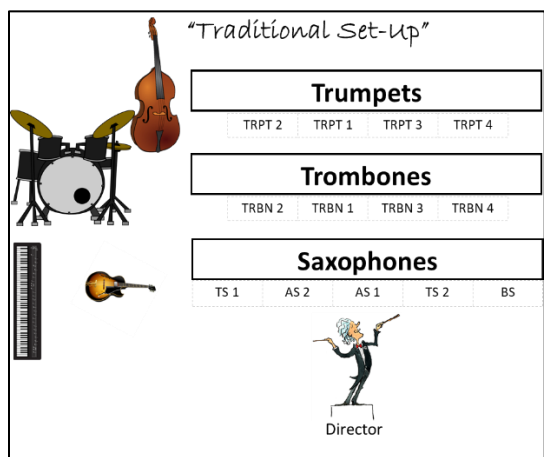
Diagram 6: The “Rehearsal Block”



Reasoning/Support:

- Everyone in the “first row”
- Director in the center to hear all parts
- Director can easily access students/parts
- Students can better hear their parts/sections

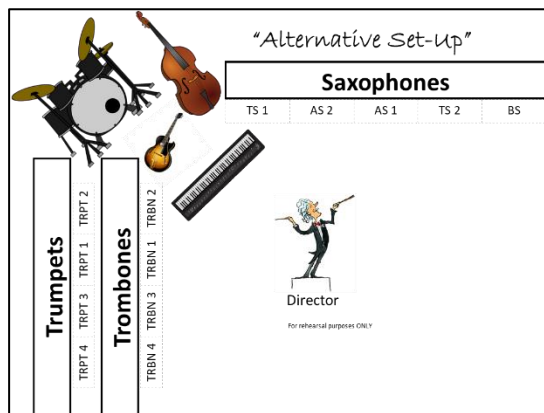
Diagram 7: Traditional Block (rehearsals & performances)



Reasoning/Support:

- “Lead” players are in line with each other and in center of their sections for listening purposes.
- “Solo” chairs are closer to rhythm section to better hear chord changes.
- Standard Big Band Setup

Diagram 8: “V” Block (alt. set up for performances)



Reasoning/Support:

- Alternate setup for confined spaces
- Solo chairs are still closest to rhythm section

Tunes performed:

1. **Second To None**/New Orleans Street Beat/by Ethan Freier/2015 - Kjos Music Press
2. **Area 51**/Rock/by Larry Barton/1999 - Birch Island Music Press
3. **The Bare Necessities**/Swing-Traditional/by Terry Gilkyson/Arr.by Paul Murtha/2016 – Wonderland Music Co.
4. **Adios Muchachos**/Latin-Tango/by Julio Sanders/Arr. Dave Wolpe/J.W. Pepper Music, Inc.
5. **Lil’ Darlin’**/Ballad-Swing/by Neal Hefti/1987 – Warner Bros. Corp.
6. **Hey Jude**/Pop-Power Ballad/by Lennon & McCartney/Arr. Adrian Drover/1968 –Northern Songs, Ltd.