

JAZZ SAXOPHONE COURSE OF STUDY

Recommended Instruction Books

Saxophone

158 Saxophone Exercises, S. Rascher
25 Daily Exercises for Saxophone, H. Klose
Charlie Parker Omnibook
Extended Technique for the Saxophone, J. Michael Leonard
Patterns for Improvisation, O. Nelson
The Intervallistic Concept, E. Harris
The Technique of the Saxophone, J. Viola
Top Tones for Saxophone, S. Rascher

Recommended Flute Instruction Books (for doublers)

18 Exercises or Etudes, Berbiguer
24 Instructive Studies, J. Anderson Op. 30
Vital Elements for the Jazz Flutist, J. Rowe

Recommended Clarinet Instruction Books (for doublers)

32 Etudes for Clarinet, C. Rose
40 Studies for Clarinet, Books 1 & 2, C. Rose
Benny Goodman Artist/Composer Clarinet Solos with Piano Accompaniment, Hal Leonard
Complete Method for the Clarinet, H. Klose

Recommended Jazz Instruction Books

Patterns for Jazz, J. Coker
Scales for Jazz Improvisation, D. Haerle
Technique Development in Fourths for Jazz Improvisation, R. Ricker

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Practice Routine

Technique

- Long Tones
- Scales
- Chords/Arpeggios
- Etudes and Exercises
- Melodic Patterns (from books and make your own)

Transcribing and Listening

- Schedule time to listen
- Transcribe solos, tunes, passages
- Play transcribed solos
- Extract new melodic patterns

Improvising

- Learn new tunes
- Memorize tunes
- Use Play-a-Long recordings
- Play with other musicians

Learning Tunes

- Listen to Recordings of the Tune (multiple)
 - Vocal and instrumental interpretations of the tune
- Learn Tune Types
 - Standard (II – V “Autumn Leaves”)
 - Mixed Modal (“Windows”)
 - Plateau Modal (“So What”/“Maiden Voyage”)
 - Blues (usually 12 bars)
 - Combination Modal and II – V
- Determine the Form (Structure)
 - Sections (8 bars or longer)
 - Phrases of the Melody/Harmony
- Learn the Melody
 - Learn the lyrics
 - Analyze Phrases (length, shape, melodic rhythm)
 - Create your interpretation of the melody
- Learn the Harmony
 - Associate harmony/harmonic movement with the melody. Each melody note is a chord tone or non-chord tone. Learn to hear the chord with melody tones.
 - Analyze the harmonic movement (II – V or modal)
 - Analyze the harmonic phrases (usually moves exactly with melody)
 - Memorize a phrase at a time

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- Play the chord arpeggio if needed
- Note the chord root movement
- Note common tones and tones that change from chord to chord (stepwise/chromatic)
- Discover guide tones lines in chord progression (multiple)
- Write out chord progression and play melody from memory

Practicing Tunes

- Use a metronome and vary the tempos, starting slow. The time feel – swing and groove – is the most important aspect.
- Discover common tones and stepwise/chromatic movement between chords – define
- Discover multiple guide tone lines (esp. with II – Vs) – play off of these lines
- Incorporate Phrase Shapes: linear, tertial, leaps of 4ths, wide leaps
- Motivic Development: state a short, melodic, rhythmic idea and develop it
- Play asymmetrical phrases (variances against harmonic flow – “across the barline”)
- Play call and response phrases
- Play complete phrases (beginning – middle – end)
- Play short melodic ideas that defines the harmony (1-2 bars)
- Play symmetrical phrases (following harmonic flow, usually 4 bars)
- Play the tune as a ballad first in order to be confident with the harmony
- Practice sections where you have problems with the harmony.
- Practice tunes solo – without accompaniment.
- Think like a drummer – take a rhythmic approach
- Use Play-a-Long recordings when possible. They help with hearing the harmony, intonation, time feel, and the opportunity to play along with some great players.