



Why Not Use The Best?

Compiled by Jim Warrick

Many jazz ensemble directors often ask for suggestions of dependable charts they can use to teach different jazz styles. To compile such a list, I contacted experienced high school jazz educators and requested the titles of currently published selections they regularly use to teach basic jazz performance skills and styles to grade 1 through 4 ensembles. Nine directors with a total of more than 190 years of high school and junior high school teaching experience contributed to the list that follows.

This is not intended to be a listing of the "all time greats," but rather a collection of model compositions for pedagogical purposes to serve as a starting point for educators new to the process of selecting jazz literature. The contributors were instructed to consider "grade 1 ensembles" as beginners; and "grade 4 ensembles" as average high school jazz bands. I took the liberty of adding my own favorites to the list.

CONTRIBUTORS

- John Baker (JB) 9 years experience, Parkway H.S., Chesterfield, MO
- John Bradley (JBr) 28 years experience, Lincoln County H.S., Augusta, GA
- Ted Galloway (TG) 28 years experience, Vestavia Hills H.S., Birmingham, AL
- Len King (LK) 30 years experience, Rolling Meadows H.S., Rolling Meadows, IL
- Bart Marantz (BM) 4 years experience, Arts Magnet H.S., Dallas, TX**
- Johnny Rinaldo (JR) 25 years experience, Eagle Rock H.S., Los Angeles, CA
- Hal Sherman (HS) 28 years experience, Kent Meridian H.S., Bellevue, WA
- Paul Swan (PS) 8 years experience, Timpview H.S., Provo, UT
- James Warrick (JW) 13 years experience, New Trier H.S., Winnetka, IL
- Ed Wolfe (EW) 18 years experience, La Verne H.S., La Verne, CA

Grade	Title	Arranger	Publisher	Style	Contributor
1	The Wind of Life	Strommen	Alfred	Latin	JBr
1	Easy Goin'	Lowden	Barnhouse	Blues	LK
1	Elem/Inter. Stage Band Book	Sebesky	Columbia	Mixed styles	JB,PS
1	Exit With The Blues	Swearingen	Heritage Mus	Blues	LK
1	Mini Minor	Thomas	Jazz Anyone?	Swing	PS
1	Harlem Nocturne	Norad	Jenson	Swing (slow)	JW
1-3	Jazz Ensemble Warm-ups Vol.I	Bullock	Columbia	Mixed styles	JW
2	Some Like It Blues	Niehaus	Barnhouse	Blues	LK
2	Latin Satin	Niehaus	Barnhouse	Latin	JR
2	Samba Pacifica	Lowden	Barnhouse	Latin	JW
2	Kinda Groovy	Lowden	Barnhouse	Swing	JBr
2	Grand Ave. Groove	Beach	Doug Beach	Funk	HS
2-4	Swing Rhythms	Beach	Doug Beach	Swing	JW
2	Crystal	Nestico	Hal Leonard	Ballad	JBr
2	Surfboard Latin	Jobim	Hal Leonard	Latin	JR
2	Tater-Patch	Nestico	Hal Leonard	Swing	TG,EW
2	Satin Doll	Edmondson	Hal Leonard	Swing	JBr
2	Don't Get Around Much Anymore	Pemberton	Hal Leonard	Swing	JW
2	Take The A Train	Lowden	Hal Leonard	Swing	JW
2	Funtime Fingers Rock	Thomas	Jazz Anyone?	Rock (concert band)	JB
2	Swinging With the Funtime Band	Thomas	Jazz Anyone?	Swing (concert band)	JB
2	Easin'	Field	Jenson	Swing	TG
2	On The Sunny Side Of The Street	Nestico	Jenson	Shuffle feel	HS
2	Birth of the Blues	Nestico	Jenson	Swing	PS
2	Sky Hook	Chattaway	Wm Allen	Rock	LK
2	Shadow Dancer	Clark	Barnhouse	Rock	JW
3	Mr. Intense	Beach	Doug Beach	Rock	JW
3	Dues Blues	Spera	Hal Leonard	Blues	EW
3	3/4 of the Time	Newman	Hal Leonard	Jazz waltz	JBr
3	Until I Met You	Wright	Hal Leonard	Swing	LK
3	Blues For Waldo	Barduhn	Jenson	Blues	PS
3	Two Timin'	Nowak	Kendor	Swing	PS
3	Ballad for Brigette	Horn	Kendor	Ballad	JBr
3	All My Life	Nestico	Kendor	Ballad	HS
3	Another Lazy Day	Nestico	Kendor	Ballad	EW
3	Bluff Point	LaBarbera	Kendor	Blues (minor)	JW
3	In High Gear	Niehaus	Kendor	Fast jazz	HS
3	Blues At First Sight	Gingery	Wm Allen	Blues	TG
3	Groovemaker	Taylor	Wm Allen	Swing	JB
3-4	Jazz Ensemble Warm-ups Vol.II	Bullock	Columbia	Mixed styles	JW
3-4	Rock Rhythms	Beach	Doug Beach	Rock	JW
4	Perpetual Commotion	Hooper	Barnhouse	Funk	EW
4	Rico-Chet	Niehaus	Barnhouse	Swing	JBr
4	Engine No. 9	Hooper	Barnhouse	Rock Boogie	JW
4	Home Movies	Beach	Doug Beach	Swing	JBr
4	Blues & Greens	Beach	Doug Beach	Blues (minor)	JB
4	Catch As Catch Can	Neihaus	Hal Leonard	Swing	JB
4	The Flintstones	Pemberson	Hal Leonard	Fast Jazz	JW
4	Maiden Voyage	Taylor	Jenson	Latin	BM
4	Wind Machine	Nestico	Jenson	Swing	LK
4	Four	Barduhn	Jenson	Swing	BM
4	All The Things You Are	Nehaus	Kendor	Swing	EW
4	Willow Weep	Lieb	Kendor	Ballad	JR
4	Perdido	Wright	Kendor	Swing	LK
4	Basie Straight Ahead	Nestico	Kendor	Swing	PS
4	Switch In Time	Nestico	Kendor	Swing	PS
4	First Child	Curnow	Ludwig Music	Ballad	JBr
4	Grand Central Suite	Holcombe	Musicians Publications	Mixed styles	LK