

## Rhythm Section Study

# The Power Of Two

## Jazz Piano with MP3s

by **Doug Beach**  
& **George Shutack**



MP3 Recordings  
can be downloaded for free at  
[kendormusic.com/product/19631.php](http://kendormusic.com/product/19631.php)

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*THE POWER OF TWO* INSTRUMENT BOOKS  
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Piano (#19631)  
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## Introduction

The piano, bass and drum books in this series evolved out of a group of jazz duet books that were written for wind instruments and guitar/vibes. The duets all had rhythm section accompaniment recordings, and these books are the rhythm section parts that were used for those recordings.

These books and their downloadable tracks provide the perfect way to learn many of the skills necessary to become a successful jazz musician. For pianists, bassists and drummers, playing along with professional musicians is an especially effective approach to learning the art of playing in the jazz rhythm section. The professionally recorded tracks that accompany this book provide players with that opportunity.

There are many skills that can be refined in this setting, including style, phrasing, conception, time, reading, comping and dynamics. The 12 jazz originals included in this book feature a variety of styles, tempos and harmonic progressions.

There are a number of different ways in which this book and the accompanying recordings can be used:

- An individual can listen to the full recordings and study what the professionals are doing on each piece of music.
- An individual can play along with the full rhythm section, and begin to imitate approaches used on the recordings.
- The player may perform on the track that omits his/her part so that they may become part of the rhythm section.
- These pieces also work very well in a private lesson where the teacher plays along with the student, demonstrating first hand all of the above mentioned skill sets.

*The Power Of Two* rhythm section books are available for piano, bass and drums. They may be used individually or together in conjunction with the duet books to create a series of 12 charts for combo instrumentation.

## Using this book with the accompanying recordings

The 12 duets progress in difficulty from easy to medium. For each tune there are 3 corresponding recorded tracks, as follows:

- **Track 1** – A full performance featuring both duet parts and the full rhythm section. The duet is played once and goes directly to the 4th ending. Use this track primarily as a listening exercise to become familiar with the tune.
- **Track 2** – Features the full rhythm section only. The duet tracks are eliminated. While this is another opportunity to play along with the track, it is also a great listening exercise in that the student can study how the pianist, bassist and drummer work together to support the melodic parts as played by the trumpets. The piece is played once and goes directly to the 4th ending.
- **Track 3** – Features both duet and the rhythm section minus your part. You play your part along with the recording to complete the performance. The duet is played once and goes directly to the 4th ending. This is a great way to work on style, phrasing, and conception.

## Rhythm Section Performance Tips

In addition to refining your style, sense of time, ensemble playing and comping, this book is an excellent vehicle for practicing improvisation. As the table below illustrates, each of the 12 tunes are based on harmonic progressions that occur frequently in jazz music. The tempos on the recordings make the music accessible to not only experienced performers, but also to anyone who is just learning the art form.

If you are just starting out, here are a few thoughts that will help you to become a better rhythm section player. Begin by learning the melody. This will help you to keep your place in the form of the song. Also, listen to the rhythm section only recording (track 2 on each tune) without playing along. The blues, for example, is a 12-measure song form. Listen until you can recognize where that form begins and ends. Again, think of the melody. It will help you keep your place.

All of the pieces include chord symbols on the bass and piano parts. Learn what those symbols mean, and how they shape the parts that you are playing. Practicing with a friend is another great way to become a better player. You can trade 4 or 8 measure phrases, learning from each other as you go.

Finally, there are many excellent texts available on the art of rhythm section playing. Seek them out. Anything that you learn from those sources may be put to use when playing over these pieces.

| Title                | Tempo       | Style                 | Form         | Key Signature      | Length Of Form | Number Of Choruses |
|----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| The Five Note Blues  | ♩ = 126     | Swing                 | Blues        | F                  | 12 Measures    | 8                  |
| Dorian Journey       | ♩ = 144     | Swing                 | 32-Bar Modal | D Minor (D Dorian) | 32 Measures    | 4                  |
| Super Chief          | ♩ = 120     | Swing                 | Minor Blues  | C Minor            | 12 Measures    | 8                  |
| Monk Lives           | ♩ = 132-144 | Swing                 | Blues        | Bb                 | 12 Measures    | 8                  |
| Whoopin' Blues       | ♩ = 184     | Street Beat           | Blues        | Eb                 | 12 Measures    | 8                  |
| Timeline             | ♩ = 126-132 | Swing                 | AB           | D Minor            | 16 Measures    | 8                  |
| Two Of A Kind        | ♩ = 92      | Bossa/<br>Rock Ballad | AABA         | G Minor            | 32 Measures    | 4                  |
| Street Smart         | ♩ = 120     | Rock                  | 16-Bar Blues | F                  | 16 Measures    | 8                  |
| All In For The Blues | ♩ = 144     | Swing                 | Blues        | Bb                 | 12 Measures    | 8                  |
| Amber And Trinita    | ♩ = 168     | Latin                 | AABA         | D Minor            | 32 Measures    | 4                  |
| Got Rhythm?          | ♩ = 184     | Swing                 | AABA         | Bb                 | 32 Measures    | 4                  |
| Coffee With Melnick  | ♩ = 120-126 | Double Time<br>Rock   | AABA         | F                  | 32 Measures    | 4                  |

# About the Composers



## Doug Beach

Doug Beach has built a career that includes performing (trumpet), teaching, adjudicating, publishing and composing. Inspired by his interest in playing, writing and teaching, in 1975 he established the publishing company which bears his name. Three years later, Doug joined the faculty of Elmhurst College in Illinois as jazz band director. In the years since, his band has toured Europe often (twice at the invitation of the U.S. State Department) and has appeared with jazz greats Clark Terry, Diane Schuur, Louie Bellson, Bobby Shew and others. In great demand as a clinician and adjudicator throughout the U.S. and Canada, Doug has also been artist-in-residence on two different occasions for the Illinois Arts Council.



## George Shutack

George Shutack is widely regarded as one of the leading composers of jazz ensemble music for younger players. While he has written many more challenging works, he is best known for his charts at the grade 2-4 levels. A keyboard player living in the Chicago area, George has been writing for Doug Beach Music since 1978. In addition to being one of the core staff writers, he is also responsible for many of the decisions regarding the company's musical direction. With over 125 compositions to his credit, George is one of the most active writers in jazz education today.

# The Five Note Blues

by Doug Beach  
and George Shutack

SWING ♩ = 126

Piano

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9

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