

Essential Rhythms For Jazz Ensemble

IN SWING, LATIN & ROCK STYLES • DIFFICULTY LEVEL: EASY TO MEDIUM

by Doug Beach & George Shutack

One of the components of any successful jazz ensemble is a strong sense of rhythm. In addition to being able to execute the rhythms most commonly found in contemporary literature, the musicians must be able to properly articulate them.

The exercises in this publication were written to provide a resource that directors could use to improve the rhythmic skills of their groups. Included are rhythms in the variety of styles most widely-used today in jazz ensemble music. Swing, rock, and two forms of Latin are each addressed in a series of four-measure phrases. In each style, there is one four-measure phrase that may be opened up for practicing improvisation. The combination of rhythmic study and an improvisation workout makes this set of exercises the ideal daily warm-up.

The enclosed parts are sufficient for a full jazz ensemble. Rhythm section parts are notated for piano and bass. The rhythm players may get more out of this if they play the rhythms in unison with the ensemble first to get the experience of reading the rhythms (piano reading a C treble part and bass reading a C bass part). Then they should switch to their parts to supply the stylistic foundation. The drummer should always read the part as if it were a chart; there is an example of what should be played for each style involved.

Each rhythm should be played first as a four-measure phrase. Repeat as often as desired, but play each at least twice. Vary the tempo. Work on teaching not only rhythm, but articulation as well. The phrases may then be linked together to create longer phrases and new challenges. Another way to use the rhythms would be to keep the rhythm section

going between numbers for a continuous feel. The solo phrases in each category may be repeated as desired to provide the opportunity to work on improvisation. Scales are included on each part.

SWING RHYTHMS 1-8: Note that the piano and bass parts have rhythms 1-7 written with several of the lines combined. They are numbered to avoid confusion. Repeat as needed to complete these phrases. Be sure the group is very aware of the time and feel. Horn players should pay particular attention to the short articulation (Λ). The line for open improvisation is #5.

4/4 LATIN - BOSSA NOVA RHYTHMS 9-13: Players should understand that the feel is now even 8th notes. Stress the importance of the 8th-note feel in the rhythm section. The improvisation line is #12.

ROCK RHYTHMS 14-18: Again, an even 8th-note feel is the foundation. Use the first endings to repeat a phrase and the "last time" endings to close a phrase out and move on. The improvisation line is #17.

2/2 LATIN RHYTHMS 19-23: Work hard to have everyone feel these in a "two" feel. Anticipation of upbeats becomes important here. These rhythms are the basics of many charts in the "Chili Pepper" series.

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 - Conductor
- 2 - C Treble Instruments
- 6 - Bb Instruments
- 3 - Eb Instruments
- 5 - C Bass Instruments
- 1 - Piano
- 1 - Bass
- 1 - Drums

EXTRA SCORES & PARTS AVAILABLE

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Essential Rhythms For Jazz Ensemble

Conductor

by Doug Beach
& George Shutack

SWING

1

The first system of music is in 4/4 time and consists of five staves. The top staff is the conductor's part, starting with a circled '1'. The second staff is for the trumpet, with handwritten notes $Bb9$, $A\flat9$, $Bb9$, and $A\flat9$ above the first four measures. The third staff is for the trombone, with the text "SUGGESTED RHYTHM - USE OTHER RHYTHMS ALSO" written across the first two measures. The fourth staff is for the saxophone, and the fifth staff is for the drum set, showing a swing rhythm pattern.

2

The second system of music is in 4/4 time and consists of five staves. The top staff is the conductor's part, starting with a circled '2'. The second staff is for the trumpet, with handwritten notes $Bb9$, $A\flat9$, $Bb9$, and $A\flat9$ above the first four measures. The third staff is for the trombone, with the text "KendorMusic.com" written across the first two measures. The fourth staff is for the saxophone, and the fifth staff is for the drum set, showing a swing rhythm pattern.

43505

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3

Musical score for rhythm exercise 3, featuring five staves: trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, and drums. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of four measures. The trumpet part has a melodic line with accents (^) and slurs. The trombone part has a similar melodic line. The saxophone part has a rhythmic line with eighth and quarter notes. The piano part has a harmonic accompaniment with chords labeled Bb9, Ab9, Bb9, and Ab9. The drum part has a steady eighth-note pattern.

4

Musical score for rhythm exercise 4, featuring five staves: trumpet, trombone, saxophone, piano, and drums. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of four measures. The trumpet part has a melodic line with accents (^) and slurs. The trombone part has a similar melodic line. The saxophone part has a rhythmic line with eighth and quarter notes. The piano part has a harmonic accompaniment with chords labeled Bb9, Ab9, Bb9, and Ab9. The drum part has a steady eighth-note pattern.

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5 OPEN FOR SOLOS - BACKGROUNDS ON CUE

Musical score for system 5, featuring five staves. The notation is handwritten and includes a large watermark reading "FOR PREVIEW ONLY". The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The first staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, including a double bar line with a "2" above it. The second staff shows a piano accompaniment with chords and notes. The third staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. The fourth staff shows a saxophone line with notes and rests. The fifth staff shows a drum line with rhythmic patterns. Chord symbols $Bb9$ and $Ab9$ are written above the first two staves.

Musical score for system 6, featuring five staves. The notation is handwritten and includes a large watermark reading "REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED". The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The first staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The second staff shows a piano accompaniment with chords and notes. The third staff shows a bass line with notes and rests. The fourth staff shows a saxophone line with notes and rests. The fifth staff shows a drum line with rhythmic patterns. Chord symbols $Bb9$, $Ab9$, $Bb9$, and $Ab9$ are written above the second staff.

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7

Musical score for rehearsal mark 7, featuring five staves. The top staff is a melodic line in 4/4 time with accents and slurs. The second staff shows chords: Bb9, Ab9, Bb9, Ab9. The third and fourth staves are bass lines. The fifth staff is a drum part with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

8

Musical score for rehearsal mark 8, featuring five staves. The top staff is a melodic line in 4/4 time with accents and slurs. The second staff shows chords: Bb9, Ab9, Bb9, Ab9 (LAST TIME). The third and fourth staves are bass lines. The fifth staff is a drum part with a consistent rhythmic pattern.

4/4 LATIN - BOSSA NOVA

9

Musical score for measure 9, featuring a melody line, piano accompaniment with chords (Dmi7, Db9, Cmi7, F9), and a bass line.

10

Musical score for measure 10, featuring a melody line, piano accompaniment with chords (Dmi7, Db9, Cmi7, F9), and a bass line.

11

Musical score for exercise 11, featuring five staves: Treble, Bass, Tenor, Alto, and Drum. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The Treble staff contains a melodic line with accents (^) and slurs. The Bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. The Tenor staff contains a tenor line with notes and rests. The Alto staff contains an alto line with notes and rests. The Drum staff contains a drum line with rhythmic patterns. Chord symbols are written above the Bass staff: BbMA7, Em7(b5), Cm7, and F9.

12 OPEN FOR SOLOS - BACKGROUNDS ON CUE

Musical score for exercise 12, featuring five staves: Treble, Bass, Tenor, Alto, and Drum. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The Treble staff contains a melodic line with accents (^) and slurs. The Bass staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. The Tenor staff contains a tenor line with notes and rests. The Alto staff contains an alto line with notes and rests. The Drum staff contains a drum line with rhythmic patterns. Chord symbols are written above the Bass staff: Dmi7, Db9, Cm7, and F9.

13

REPEAT LAST TIME

Dmi⁷ D^b9 Cm⁷ F⁹ F⁹

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ROCK

14

REPEAT LAST TIME

C B^b/C F/C C B^b/C F/C B^b/C F/C

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15

Musical score for exercise 15, 4/4 time. The score includes a melody line with accents and slurs, a chord line with chords C, B \flat /C, F/C, and B \flat /C, F/C, and a bass line with eighth notes. A drum line is shown with rhythmic patterns. The score is divided into a 'REPEAT' section and a 'LAST TIME' section.

16

Musical score for exercise 16, 4/4 time. The score includes a melody line with accents and slurs, a chord line with chords E \flat , F, C, B \flat /C, F/C, and B \flat /C, F/C, and a bass line with eighth notes. A drum line is shown with rhythmic patterns. The score is divided into a 'REPEAT' section and a 'LAST TIME' section.

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17 OPEN FOR SOLOS - BACKGROUNDS ON CUE

Musical score for exercise 17, featuring five staves. The score includes handwritten notes, chords, and a large watermark reading "FOR PREVIEW ONLY". The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and various rhythmic markings such as "C", "Bb/C", "F/C", and "2".

18

REPEAT

LAST TIME

Musical score for exercise 18, featuring five staves. The score includes handwritten notes, chords, and a large watermark reading "REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED". The notation includes a treble clef, a 4/4 time signature, and various rhythmic markings such as "C", "Bb/C", "F/C", and "2".

2/2 LATIN

19

REPEAT LAST TIME

F Eb

20

REPEAT LAST TIME

F Eb

21

mus.

Musical score for rehearsal mark 21. It consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with accents and slurs. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a piano accompaniment with chords and dynamics like 'f'. The third staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with chords. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with notes and rests. The fifth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with notes and rests. A large watermark 'FOR PREVIEW ONLY' is overlaid on the score.

22 OPEN FOR SOLOS - BACKGROUNDS ON CUE

Musical score for rehearsal mark 22. It consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature. It contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The second staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a piano accompaniment with chords and dynamics like 'f'. The third staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with chords. The fourth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with notes and rests. The fifth staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat, containing a bass line with notes and rests. A large watermark 'REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED' is overlaid on the score.

Essential Rhythms For Jazz Ensemble - 12

23

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 4/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line with various notes, rests, and accents. Above the first four measures, there is a box labeled 'REPEAT' with a double bar line at the end. Above the last two measures, there is a box labeled 'LAST TIME' with a double bar line at the end. The second staff is in treble clef and contains chord symbols: F, Bb, Cm7, and C7. The third staff is in bass clef and contains a bass line with notes and rests. The fourth staff is in bass clef and contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The fifth staff is in bass clef and contains a rhythmic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a 'FILL' instruction at the end.

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