

Technology in Jazz Instruction: Tools That School

Marc Max Jacoby
Associate Professor and Technology Coordinator
mjacoby@vandercook.edu

VanderCook College of Music
3140 S. Federal St.
Chicago, IL 60616
312-225-6288

Enhance the jazz education experience by employing technology in practice sessions, classroom learning, or rehearsal settings.

1. Performance
2. Ear Training
3. Style and Performance Practices
4. History

Lesson #1 – Practicing Improvisation

Part A

Practicing a set of solo chord changes is a regular practice activity of every jazz performer.

Outcome:

- Play a multiple chorus solo

Tools:

- Band in a Box
- SmartMusic
- ittyMIDI for Palm OS

Process:

- Enter chord changes, choose style, # of choruses

Part B

Creating an audio recording of a solo provides the opportunity to reflect on our improvising in a way that is impossible to do while playing.

Outcome:

- Make an audio recording of solo with accompaniment.

Tools:

A) Low Tech (low budget)

Process:

- Record with playback of BIAB on MIDI synthesizer

Hardware

- Computer (BIAB minimum specs) with MIDI interface
- Consumer style synthesizer w/built-in speakers or amplifier
- Cassette tape recorder (mini-disc, etc.)
- Microphone(s)

B) High Tech (but not astronomical budget)

Process:

- Record using computer based multi-track recording software

Hardware:

- Computer (Windows Pentium III or better, Macintosh G3 or better)
- Sound card or software synthesizer
- Microphone
- Headphones

Assessment:

- Submit CD Audio disc and/or MP3 file

Lesson #2 - Ear Training: Part 1

Developing the ability to “audiate” Tonic -> Dominant-> Tonic and Tonic -> Sub-Dominant-> Tonic in melodic and harmonic motion is fundamental to beginning improvisation.

Outcomes:

- Identify and sing melodies and phrases that use Tonic, Sub-Dominant and Dominant.

Software:

- Practica Musica
- Auralia
- MiBac Music Lessons

Process:

- Ear training exercises and singing/playing with accompaniment practice

Assessment:

- Built in assessment tools of software programs and recording of performances

Lesson #3 – Ear Training: Part 2

Developing the ability to hear and model melodic phrases is essential to the improviser.

Outcome:

- Transcribe a recorded solo by singing or playing.

Software:

- Transkriber
- Transcribe!
- MIDI Sequencing

Process:

- Provide passages that are slow enough to hear pitches and rhythmic gestures clearly.

Assessment:

- Submit recording or notation of passage.

Lesson #4 – Basic Performance Skills

Basic performance training for jazz players in multiple domains, improves our understanding and feeling when performing.

Outcome:

- Develop basic skills in jazz chord voicings and voice leading on piano.
- Develop basic rhythms and techniques for Latin-Jazz styles.

Software:

- Shedding the Basics – Jazz Piano
- Shedding the Basics – Latin Jazz
- Jazz-Piano Masterclass
- Dick Hyman’s Century of Jazz

Process:

- Work either independently or in groups with CD-ROM or web based software.

Assessment:

- Play live or record assignments.

Lesson #5 – History

Learning about jazz means having knowledge of its development over the past century.

Outcome:

- Develop multimedia presentations on musicians.

Software:

- Dreamweaver
- Flash
- HyperStudio
- MovieWorks
- QuickTime
- PowerPoint

Find more information on the web:

Accompaniment Software

Band in a Box..... www.pgmusic.com
ittyMIDI for Palm OS..... www.ittymidi.com
SmartMusic..... www.smartmusic.com

MIDI and Audio Recording

Deck LE..... www.bias-inc.com
Home Studio..... www.cakewalk.com
MicroLogic AV..... www.emagic.com
ProTools Free..... www.degidesign.com
QuickTime..... www.apple.com/quicktime

Transcription

Transcribe!..... www.seventhstring.demon.co.uk
Transkriber`..... www.acutab.com/transkriber.html

Ear Training

Auralia..... www.risingsoftware.com
MiBac Music Lessons..... www.mibac.com
Practica Musica..... www.practicamusica.com

Performance Training

Dick Hyman's Century of Jazz..... www.jssmusic.com
Jazz-Piano Masterclass..... www.pgmusic.com
Sheddin' the Basics – Jazz Piano..... www.roxmedia.com
Sheddin' the Basics – Latin Jazz..... www.roxmedia.com

Multimedia Authoring

Dreamweaver..... www.macromedia.com
Flash..... www.macromedia.com
HyperStudio..... www.hyperstudio.com
PowerPoint..... www.microsoft.com
QuickTime..... www.apple.com/quicktime
Photoshop..... www.adobe.com

Music Notation

Finale..... www.makemusic.com
Sibelius..... www.sibelius.com

Jazz Related Sites

International Association of Jazz Educators..... www.iaje.org
Harmony Central..... www.harmony-central.com/
Jamey Aebersold..... www.jazzbooks.com