

From the Top!

Building Jazz Culture Through Dynamic Warm-Ups

Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic

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Goals For This Session

- Explore Movement & Singing
- Explore Warm-Ups for Jazz Ensemble
- Give Ideas for Culture Building
- Encourage Directors at All Levels



Start with Movement: The Science

- Dancing increases quality of life
- Dancing decreases symptoms such as depression/anxiety
- Dancing increases subjective well-being and positive mood
- Dancing boosts brain function

*study from The Arts in Psychotherapy: Volume 41 Issue 1

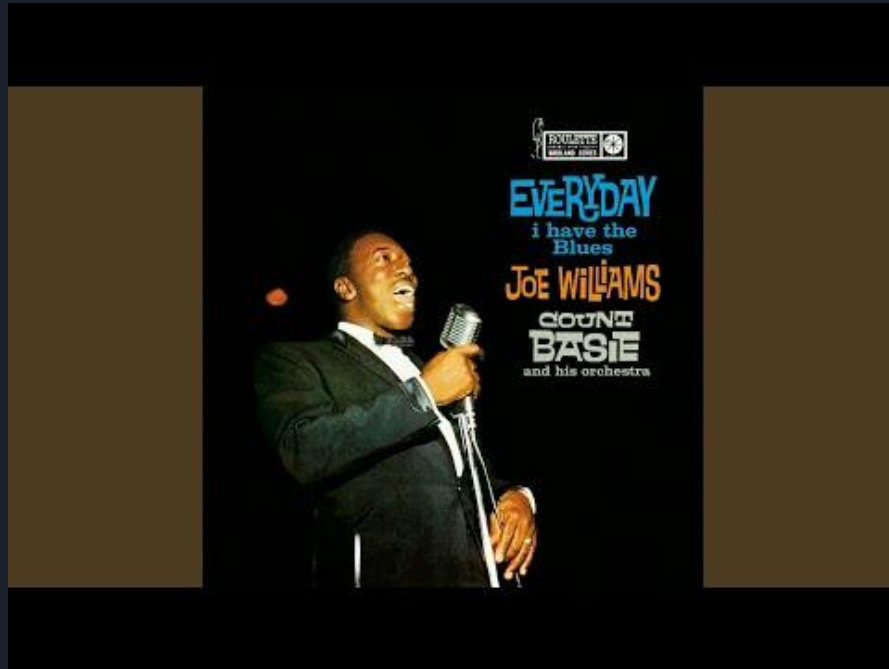


Start with Movement: Classroom Management

- Dancing as the start of class
- Dancing as a motivator for a quicker rehearsal start time
- Dancing as a means to focus on this new class
- Dancing as a vehicle to build a jazz culture
- Use as a prelude to encourage them to sing/isolate their parts throughout rehearsal

Every Day I Have the Blues (1957)

Joe Williams & The Count Basie Orchestra





Warm-Ups: Basics

- Connect the dance song to the warm up of your choice
- Bb Blues: Whole Notes, Half Notes, Quarters, Eighths



Warm-Ups: Scales

- Circle of 4ths
- Use as assessment
- Ascending
- Ascending (9th) then descending
- Thirds ascending
- Thirds ascending then descending
- Pacing: Quarters/eighths, combo depending on fluidity



Warm-Ups: 5 Minutes a Day

- Long tones
- Tuning (including doublers)
- Balance, blend, dynamics, shaping
- Establishing rhythm section groove and pulse and style



Warm-Ups: Blues Vocabulary

- 12 blues quotes
- 4 bars of each
- Rhythm section continues 12 bar blues
- Novice bands vs. experienced bands
- Introduce original recordings
- All instruments learn the melodies together (drummer sings)
- Easily turn into a combo/transcription project



Warm-Ups: Improvisation

- Rhythm section continues 5 minutes chart (12 bar blues)
- Go around the room
- Every soloist stands
- Different sections take turns creating backgrounds
- If multiple comping instruments, students rotate/practice space
- If beginning drummer, be sure to mix up cymbals
- Encourage rhythm section/soloist to interact



Warm-Ups: Improvisation Options

- Stick with Bb Blues or change to any key (make sure rhythm section has changes or is experience enough to go on the fly)
- Choose solo section in any current chart
- If rhythm section is experienced, try moving up chromatically every 12 bars for each new soloist



Building a Student-Centered Classroom Culture

- Set goals as a class
- Decide on classroom values
- Encourage sectionals
- Ask section leaders for input
- Establish mentoring

Create Memorable Experiences





Building a Local & State-Wide Jazz Culture

- Serve on a board of a jazz organization
- Attend a jazz festival to get feedback for your students
- Bring in local jazz musicians or educators to get a fresh voice in front of your students
- Encourage students to audition/apply for honor bands
- Cheer on other bands at festivals
- Host a jam session or a Jazz Girls Day

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