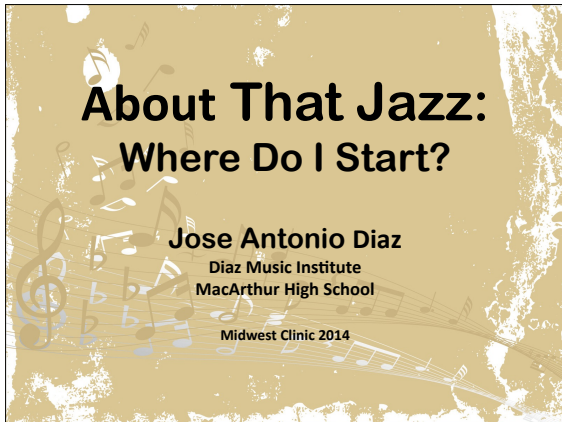




**About That Jazz:
Where Do I Start?**

Jose Antonio Diaz
Diaz Music Institute
MacArthur High School

Midwest Clinic 2014



**Jazz Institute of Chicago's
Jazz Links Youth Ensemble**

Directors: Mark Coulter, Madeleine Mollinedo
and Carlos Ayento

Lauren Deutsch, Executive Director
Diane Chandler-Marshall, Education Program Director



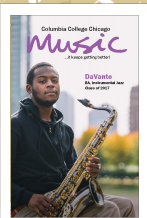
Jazz Institute of Chicago

The Jazz Institute of Chicago nurtures young artists, bringing them up through Jazz Links and introducing them to audiences at JazzCity and Millennium Park and the Chicago Jazz Festival.

The Jazz Institute of Chicago Provides

- real-life training ground for students to learn skills required to become professional musicians,
- internships at the Jazz Institute
- support their careers as they become working musicians and full members of the community.
- provide professional development for music teachers

Thank You! Columbia College Chicago

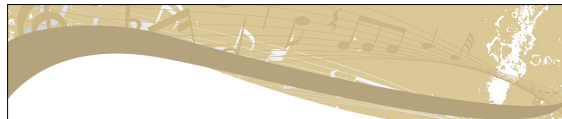


Richard Dunscomb
Music Department Chair

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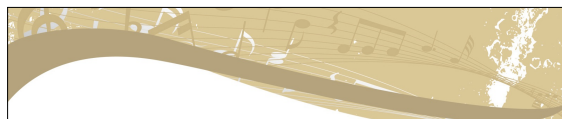
Understanding Jazz

- Jazz is deeply rooted in the auditory tradition of African music.
- The African approach of master/student relationship is one of observation and imitation.



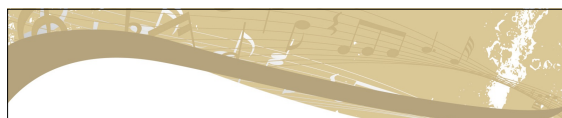
Understanding Jazz Cont.

- Music was taught by rote and the master insisted that the student imitated in a verbatim manner the exact phrase with the same feeling and nuances of the performance.
- Generations of jazz musicians learned from their mentors by copying, imitating, and learning their vocabulary – very much like learning to speak a language.



Understanding Jazz Cont.

- Many of the great jazz musicians were not thinking about the theory behind the improvised solos but instead relied heavily on the vocabulary they developed.
- The basic premise was that if it sounded good then the right note choices were performed.



Understanding Jazz Cont.

- In general we would never use a word we didn't know the meaning of for fear of looking and sounding foolish to others.
- Jazz performance is very much the same; one must learn the vocabulary defined by the masters and innovators of this art form to create the authentic feeling of the music.

Understanding Jazz Cont.

"In Jazz, improvisation isn't a matter of just making any ol' thing up. Jazz, like any language, has its own grammar and vocabulary. There's no right or wrong, just some choices that are better than others."

Wynton Marsalis



Understanding Jazz Cont.

Getting comfortable with the rhythmic concept of swing is critical to developing an improvisation that swings.

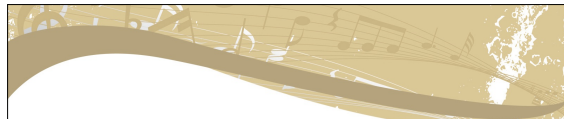
The late great jazz educator Alvin Batiste would always say *"there are no wrong notes in jazz, just mispronunciation."* He was talking about developing a rhythmic concept that would help you create the swing feel through a jazz dialect.



So How Do We Learn To Swing?

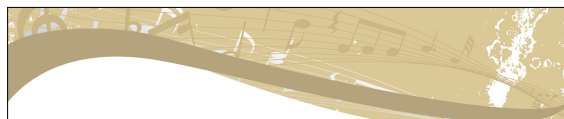
Swing – a form of jazz music where the rhythmic pulse and interpretation of melodic and harmonic material creates a feeling of rocking back and forth.





So How Do We Learn To Swing?

- Before we begin to learn how to swing we have to know how the concept developed.
- The concept of swing can be traced back to the African rituals of Abakua.

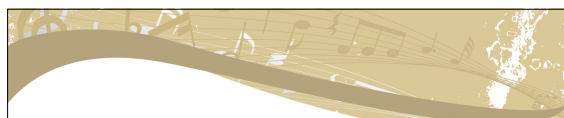


So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Let's chant the following:

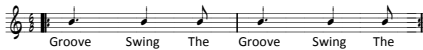


I Play A-fro Six Eight Oh



So How Do We Learn To Swing?

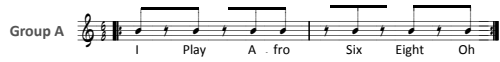
Now let's chant the this:



Groove Swing The Groove Swing The

So How Do We Learn To Swing?

Now let's chant them both together:



Developing A Jazz Dialect

Jazz Dialect – the musical pronunciation of the jazz genre. The pronunciation of the jazz language is acquired thru the use of syllables the help create the natural rhythmic feel of swing.



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Jazz like all other music genre gets its momentum from the interpretation of its rhythm. Rhythm is fundamental to creating the feeling for swing. With that in mind let's begin our journey by developing the jazz language and understanding the rhythmic feel of swing.

Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

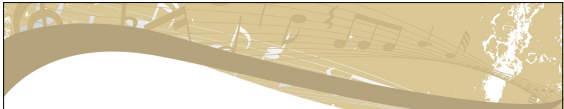
Developing a jazz dialect naturally creates a rhythmic understanding through feeling the pulse of the music. The conceptual approach of this jazz dialect is rooted in the feel of the rhythm of spoken syllables. This approach can help develop a natural feel to swing and help players understand the concept of swing.

Jazz Links Ensemble's Before Performance.



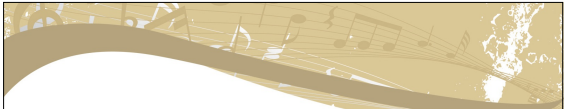
Jazz Links Ensemble's After Performance.



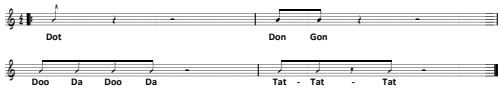


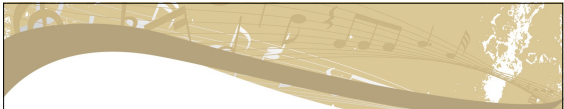
Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Jazz Dialect is a set of syllables used to develop the concept of swing by using the auditory senses to listen and imitate. The following syllables can help build a solid foundation rhythmically to create the feeling of swing. Like learning to speak a language, let's think of these syllables as jazz vocabulary. Remember jazz like any other language is verbatim and is developed by listening and imitating.



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

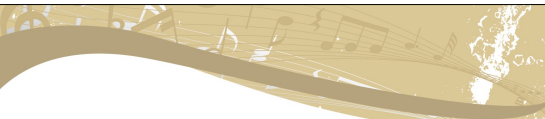




Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

Let's read a new chart that the group hasn't seen before. The chart will use the following Jazz Dialect:

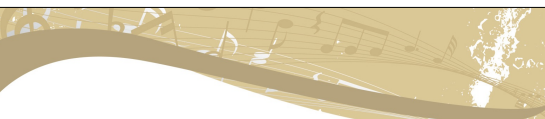




Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

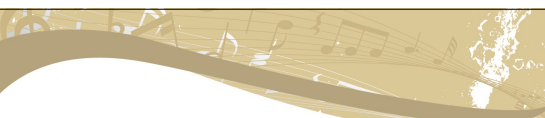
Performance of Joseph's Bounce using the syllables list below:





Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

One of the most difficult aspects of improvisation is knowing what to play. A good foundation with Jazz Dialect helps players develop improvisation. Jazz Dialect gives players a rhythmic starting point to develop their improvisation.



Developing A Jazz Dialect Cont.

- Get students performing improvisation quickly by starting with rhythmic improvisation.
- Only use the Jazz Dialect that you know well and can recall by memory.
- After using rhythmic improvisation add notes to your Jazz Dialect syllables

Coming Soon!



www.abouthatjazz.com
by: Jose Diaz & Richard Dunscomb

For More Info: www.abouthatjazz.com



Performance
Carol of the Bells

Featuring
Ndugu Chancler



Checkout Ndugu's Clinic
Swinging Through Time
Thursday Dec. 18, 2014
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM

Downbeat Magazine Interview
Friday Dec. 19, 2014
2:30 PM - 3:30 PM