

* See Abbreviated KEY for Method Titles at the BOTTOM of Page *

OVERVIEW:	EE4JE	EE4BL	JB	SOE4JE	SOE4AJE	SOE4JC	1st P4J	ASV1
Jazz Styles (*limited)	S, *L, R	S & *L	S, L, R	S, L, R	S, L, R	S, L, R, W	S, L, R	S & *R
Jazz Theory	Y	Review	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jazz Improvisation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Units Focus on Particular Tonality			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Aural Approach			Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Jazz History (*limited)	Pic & Bio	Bio						*Bio
All Exer. & Comps. on CD	Y or DLD	Y or DLD	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y or DLD	Y
Gr. Level & Br. Concert Range	2 & Eb	2 & Eb	2.5 & F	2.5 & F	3 & F	2 & Eb	2.5 & F	3 & F
FEATURES:								
Rhythm Section Role & Tech.	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Standard Jazz Tunes	Y	Y						Y
Trading 2's & 4's Exerc.	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Call & Response Exerc.	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Maj, min, Dom, 7th Sc. & Chrd	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Blues Prog. & Scale	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
System of Articulation Syllables	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	
Progressive Pitch Sets	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Available for FI, CI, FHN & Tba	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	&Strings	Y	No FHN
Comping	Y		Y	Y	Y		Y	
Common Riffs	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y
Jazz Ornamentation/Symbols	Y			Y	Y	Y	Y	
Jazz Masters Discography	Y							Y
Chromatic Ornament./ Bebop	Y	Y						Y
Side by Side Style Comparisons	Y							
Major Concert Keys	Bb & F	Bb, Eb, F&G	Bb, Eb	Bb, Eb, F, C, Ab		Bb, F & G	Bb, Eb, F	Bb, F, C
minor Keys	f		f, eb, &d	g & c	d	Bb, f & g	Bb, eb, f	f & d
Split Tracks L & R Spkr		Y				Y	App&Video	
Change Speed of Accomp.		Y					Y	
EE4JE = Essential Elements for Jazz Ensemble			1s P4J = First Place for Jazz					
EE4B = Essential Elements for Blues								
JB = Jazz Basics								
ASV1 = Approaching the Standards Volume 1								

Approaches to Jazz through various Method Books

Compiled by Anthony Susi

This review compares the pros and cons of various Jazz method books for teaching Jazz style and improvisation. The Overview, Highlights and Limitations of each method have corresponding numbers and letters assigned to assist in comparing “apples” to “apples”. The different aspects of each book are in bold print to help you decide which series may be most suitable for your middle or high school students.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS for JAZZ ENSEMBLE

by Mike Steinel, Hal Leonard Pub.

OVERVIEW:

- 1-Jazz Styles in Swing, Latin & Rock
- 2-Jazz Theory
- 3-Jazz Improvisation
- 4-Jazz History highlights (**Photos** and brief biographies on Jazz style innovators)
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including Sample Solos for study and reference. (Can be downloaded to device as well)
- 6-All Exercises & arrangements will sound full with a min. of 4 Horns (Trpt, Alto, Ten. & Trb.) and 3 Rhythm with Limited Ranges (**Brass to Concert Eb*). Difficulty Level: Grade 2
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- a. Special **Rhythm Section** Information on their **Role and Technique** throughout the book.
- b. **Standard Jazz Tunes** (Ja-Da, Ballin' the Jack, St. Louis Blues, Kansas City) and originals by author meant for **Concert Use** include written Demonstration Solos.
- c. **Trading 2's and 4's**
- d. **Call & Response** exercises
- e. Building **7th Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- g. Uses a **System of Articulation Syllables** that primarily coincide with Gordan rhythm syllables.
- h. **Limit Parameters** – Pitch Sets are Progressive: 1 & b7, 1,5,& b7,1 – 3, 1 – 5, etc.
 - i. Available for **Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, & Tuba**
- j. **Comping** (“Rhythmicising”) exercises on one pitch.
- k. **Common Riffs & Use of Repetition**
 - l. Explanation and use of **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, Flips
- m. Suggested **Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- n. Chromatic Ornamentation (**Bebop**)
- o. **Side by Side Comparisons** of Traditional & Swing style interpretation as well as syncopation.

LIMITATIONS of ESSENTIAL JAZZ:

- a. **Only Keys of Concert Bb & F** are used along with Concert F minor.
- b. **Small portion** of the book devoted to **Latin style** (only 4 of 32 pages).
- c. No differentiation of syllables for dynamic accents on down beat vs. upbeat with system used.

ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS for the BLUES

Sweeney, Murtha, & Steinel, Hal Leonard Pub.

OVERVIEW:

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- 1-Jazz Style (Dixieland, Big Band, Bebop, Cool Jazz & Latin)
 - 2-Jazz Theory (**Review** rather than introduction)
 - 3-Jazz Improvisation
 - 4-Jazz History highlights (Brief Biographies on Jazz style innovators of standards in the book.)

(OVERVIEW for *Essential Blues* continued...)

- 5-All compositions on CD for play along, including “sample” solos for study and reference. Can be downloaded to personal device as well.
- 6-All tunes have Limited Ranges (**Brass to Concert Eb*), Difficulty Level: Grade 2
- 7-**Hints to improve Improvisation for each tune.**

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- b. **Standard Jazz Tunes for Combo Use** (all unison) include written Sample Solos.
- e. Review of Building 7th **Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Review of standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- g. Suggested **System of Articulation Syllables** that coincide with *Essential Elements for Jazz*.
- i. Available for **Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, & Tuba**
- j. **Tonalities Include** Concert Bb, Eb, F & G Major
- k. **Common Riffs & Use of Repetition** demonstrated through Sample Solos.
- n. Review of **Bebop Scale**
- p. **Piano & Bass on Split Tracks** so they can be eliminated by panning left or right
- q. **Change Speed of Accomp.** with software for practicing technical passages

LIMITATIONS of ESSENTIAL BLUES:

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- a. **Nothing in a minor mode.**
 - b. Small portion of the book devoted to **Latin style (only 1 of 10 tunes).**
 - d. No explanation or use of **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, Flips
 - e. **No Full Ensemble Charts**
 - f. No Special **Rhythm Section** information on their **Role and Technique**

JAZZ BASICS by Peter Blair, Heritage Jazz Works

OVERVIEW:

- 1-**Jazz Styles** in Swing, Latin & Rock included.
- 2-**Jazz Theory**
- 3-Exercises are **Focused on a Particular Tonality**
- * **Aural Approach** that students use as building blocks for Improvisation
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including Sample Solos for study and reference.
- 6-All Exercises & Compositions will sound full with a min. of 4 Horns (Trpt, Alto, Ten. & Trb.) and 3 Rhythm with Moderate Ranges (**Brass to Concert F*). Difficulty Level: Grade 2
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.
- 8-Specific Ways to Alter a Phrase using **Rhythmic & Melodic Variations.**

IF
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HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- a. Special **Rhythm Section** Information on their **Role and Technique** throughout the book.
- b. **Full Band Compositions for Concert Use** at the end of each Unit using the Tonality studied.
- c. **Trading 2 bar phrases.**
- d. **Call & Response** - Echoing 2 bar patterns and Improvising 2 bar phrases.
- e. Building 7th **Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
(HIGHLIGHTS for Jazz Basics continued...)
- g. **No Articulation/Rhythm Syllables** utilized intentionally
- h. **Limit Parameters** - Progressive Pitch sets using Chord & Scale tones (Solfege & Hand Signs)
- i. Available for **Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, & Tuba**
- j. **Comping** ("Rhythmicising") exercises on one or two pitches.
- j. **Tonalities Include** Concert Bb, Eb Major & minor, D minor, F minor, & Bb Blues



LIMITATIONS of JAZZ BASICS:

- a. **No Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- b. **No discussion or use of Chromatic Ornamentation (Bebop)**
- c. **No examples of Common Riffs**
- d. **No explanation of Jazz Ornamentation** - Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Glissandos, Flips
- e. **No Jazz Standard Tunes**
- f. **No Jazz History**

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE JAZZ ENSEMBLE METHOD

By Dean Sorenson & Bruce Pearson, Kjos Music Co.

OVERVIEW:

- 1-Jazz Styles in Swing, Latin & Rock included.
- 2-Jazz Theory
- 3-Exercises are **Focused on a Particular Tonality**
- * **Aural Approach** that students use as building blocks for Improvisation
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including "sample" solos for study and reference.
- 6-All Exercises & Compositions will sound full with a min. of 4 Horns (Trpt, Alto, Ten. & Trb.) and 3 Rhythm with Moderate Ranges (*Brass to Concert F). Difficulty Level: Grade 2.5
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.
- 8-Specific Ways to Alter a Phrase using **Rhythmic & Melodic Variations.**

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- a. Special **Rhythm Section** Information on their **Role and Technique** throughout the book.
- b. **Full Band Compositions for Concert Use** at the end of each Unit using the Tonality studied.
- c. **Trading 2's and 4's**
- d. **Call & Response** exercises
- e. Building 7th **Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- g. Uses a **System of Articulation Syllables**

↑
I don't care for their syllables because they are not aligned with Gordon Syllables I use with Concert Band.

- h. **Limit Parameters** – Pitch Sets are Progressive: 1 & b7, 1,5,& b7,1 – 3, 1 – 5, etc.
- i. Available for Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, & Tuba
- j. **Comping** (Rhythmicising) through Unit Rhythm Studies
- k. **Common Licks** & Use of Repetition
- l. Explanation of **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, Flips

LIMITATIONS of S.O.E. JAZZ:

- a. No **Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- b. No discussion or use of Chromatic Ornamentation (**Bebop**)
- c. **Articulation Syllables** use the same consonant and vowel sound. DA vs. DAH
- e. No **Jazz Standard Tunes**
- f. No **Jazz History**

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE ADVANCED JAZZ ENSEMBLE

By Dean Sorenson & Bruce Pearson, Kjos Music Co.

Designed as a comprehensive jazz instruction book, it can be used by students who have completed the Standard of Excellence Jazz Ensemble Method, or students with intermediate level instrumental skills and at least one year of jazz ensemble experience. Building upon the rhythmic skill introduced in the first book, the ADVANCED series focuses on teaching improvisation. Concepts introduced and reinforced in IMPROVISATIONS STUDIES and ADVANCED IMPROVISATION STUDIES are applied in charts designed to be played by the full jazz ensemble. In addition students and directors will find: Increased emphasis on improvisation; Advanced improvisation studies; Longer charts; Wider instrumental range; More independence of section. Each book comes with an accompaniment CD, continuing the non-theoretical and aurally based approach (**Ear Openers**) of the first book. Parts available for flute, clarinet, french horn, and tuba ensure that the study of improvisation is also accessible to students of non-traditional jazz instruments.

FIRST PLACE for JAZZ by Dean Sorenson, Kjos Music Co.

OVERVIEW:

- 1-Jazz Styles in Swing, Latin & Rock included.
- 2-Jazz Theory
- 3-Exercises are **Focused on a Particular Tonality**
- Aural Approach** that students use as building blocks for Improvisation
- 4-Specific Ways to Alter a Phrase using **Rhythmic & Melodic Variations**.
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including "sample" solos for study and reference. **Available Phone App in place of CD.**
- 6-All Exercises & Compositions will sound full with a min. of 4 Horns (Trpt, Alto, Ten. & Trb.) and 3 Rhythm with Moderate Ranges (**Brass to Concert F*). Difficulty Level: Grade 2.5
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- a. Special **Rhythm Section** Information on **Role and Technique Software Videos** and the book.
- b. **Full Band Compositions for Concert Use** at the end of each Unit using the Tonality studied.

Solution
If Low Budget

- c. **Trading 2 bar phrases.**
- d. **Call & Response** - Echoing 2 bar patterns and Improvising 2 bar phrases.
- e. Building **7th Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- g. **Articulation Syllables** utilized

(HIGHLIGHTS for First Place for Jazz continued...)

- h. **Limit Parameters** – Pitch Sets are Progressive: 1 & b7, 1,5,& b7, etc.
- i. Available for **Flute, Clarinet, French Horn, & Tuba**
- j. **Comping** (Rhythmicising) on one or two pitches.
- j. **Tonalities Include** Concert Bb, Eb & F: Major, minor, Dominant 7th & Blues
- k. **Common Riffs** & Use of Repetition demonstrated through exercises & sample written solos.
- q. **Change Speed of Accomp., opt. Loop & Rec.** with software for practicing technical passages
- r. **Correlated Video Lessons** with software

LIMITATIONS of JAZZ BASICS:

- a. No **Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- b. No discussion or use of Chromatic Ornamentation (**Bebop**)
- d. No explanation of interpreting **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, etc.
- e. No **Jazz Standard Tunes**
- f. No **Jazz History**

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE JAZZ COMBO SESSION

By Dean Sorenson, Kjos Music Co.

OVERVIEW:

- 1-**Jazz Styles** in Swing, Latin & Rock, including **Reggae and Waltz**
- 2-**Jazz Theory** (Limited explanation)
- 3-Charts are **Focused on a Particular Tonality**
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including “sample” solos for study and reference.
- 6-All Exercises & Compositions will sound full with a min. of **2 Horns** and 3 Rhythm with Limited Ranges (Brass to Concert Eb). Difficulty Level: Grade 2
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- b. **Combo Tunes for Concert Use** in a variety of Tonalities has flexible instrumentation.
- e. Building **7th Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- i. Available for **Flute, French Horn, & Strings!**
- j. **Tonalities Include** Concert Bb, F & G: Major, minor, Dominant 7th & Blues
- l. Explanation of **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, Flips
- p. **Split Tracks** so Melody or Harmony can be eliminated by panning left or right

LIMITATIONS of JAZZ BASICS:

- a. No **Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- b. No discussion or use of Chromatic Ornamentation (**Bebop**)

- c. No examples of **Common Riffs**
- e. No **Jazz Standard Tunes**
- f. No **Jazz History**
- g. No **Special Rhythm Section** Information on their **Role and Technique**

APPROACHING THE STANDARDS, Vol. 1
by Dr. Willie Hill, Warner Bros./Belwin Mills Pub.

OVERVIEW:

- 1-Jazz Styles in Swing (Big Band, Bebop, Hard Bop) Rock (Modal)
- 2-Jazz Theory
- 3-Jazz Improvisation
- 4-Jazz History highlights (Brief biographies on Jazz style innovators)
- 5-All exercises & compositions on CD for play along, including "sample" solos for study and reference.
- 6-Difficulty Level: **Grade 3**
- 7-Designed to Provide Every Member of the Ensemble a Daily Chance to Improvise, even if it's only a 2 or 4 bar phrase.

HIGHLIGHTS/FEATURES:

- b. **Standard Jazz Tunes** include written Demonstration Solos.
- e. Building 7th **Chords and Scales** (Major, Minor, Dominant)
- f. Formula for standard **Blues Progression & Blues Scale**
- i. Available for Bb, Eb, C, Bass Clef & Rhythm Section
- k. **Common Riffs** & Use of Repetition
- m. Suggested **Jazz Masters Listening Guide** (Discography) for each instrument.
- n. Chromatic Ornamentation (**Bebop**)

LIMITATIONS of APPROACHING THE STANDARDS:

- b. **Nothing in a Latin style** and only 1 Rock of the 8 tunes.
- d. No explanation or use of **Jazz Ornamentation** – Bends, Scoops, Falls, Doits, Gliss, Flips
- e. No **Full Ensemble Charts**
- f. No **Special Rhythm Section** information on their **Role and Technique**
- g. No **Books for F Horn**