

The Jazz Commandments

Guidelines For Jazz Articulation And Style

by Jerry Tolson



MP3 Recordings (with and without soloist)
can be downloaded for free at kendormusic.com

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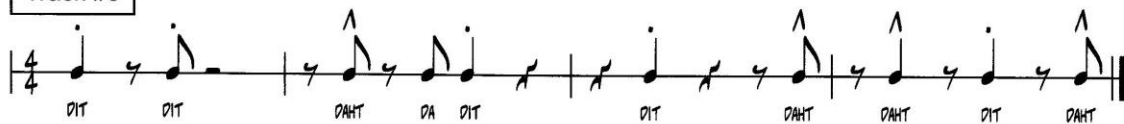
Chapter 2

Short Quarter Notes And Eighth Notes

Guideline #1: Unless specifically marked otherwise, any quarter note or eighth note followed by a rest is played (sung) short.

Notice that the articulation ends with a *t* sound, which is achieved by stopping the tone with the tongue. While typically not used in classical performance technique, the tongue-stopped tone is standard in jazz.

Track #5



Play the exercise with the articulations as marked. You will note that some of the short notes in this example are accented and some are not. This will be addressed in Guideline #4.

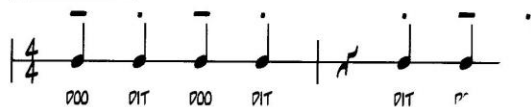
Quarter notes or eighth notes followed by rests often occur in jazz in the middle and at the end of phrases and lines. For more clarity, play these notes short. It is also easier to coordinate precision of larger ensembles when these notes are played short.

If not followed by a rest, then the quarter notes and eighth notes are usually played short.

Guideline #2: Quarter notes that occur on the downbeats of beats 1 and 3.

Guideline #3: Quarter notes that occur on the downbeats of beats 2 and 4.

Track #6



Practice this exercise at different tempos. Play the first measure of the example the way you would play it (Guideline #1).

Guidelines 1, 2, and 3 are common jazz characteristics. Listen to Gershwin's *I've Got a Rhythm*.



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Track #7/8

Lester, The Leaping Lizard

by Jerry Tolson

SWING ♩ = 152

C A7 Dmi7 G7 C A7 Dmi7 G7

C C/E F7 F#0 1 C A7 Dmi7 G7

2 Dmi7 G7sus C (II) E9 A9

D9 G7 G+7

19 C A7 Dmi7 G7 C A7 Dmi7 G7

C C/E F7 F#0 Dmi7 G7sus C

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a swing feel and a tempo of 152 beats per minute. It consists of six staves of music. The first staff begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is primarily eighth and quarter notes. Chords are indicated above the staff. The second staff contains a first ending bracketed section. The third staff contains a second ending bracketed section. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff contains a third ending bracketed section. The sixth staff concludes the piece. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

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Track #60/61

Ode To 52nd St

by Jerry Tolson

SWING ♩ = 126

Chords: Dmi7, B7(#9), Emi7(bs), A7(b9), Dmi7, Bmi7(bs), Emi7(bs), A7(b9), FMA7, Dmi7, Gmi7, C7, FMA7, Emi7(bs), A7(b9), Dmi7, Emi7(bs), A7(b9), Dmi7, Bmi7(bs), Emi7(bs), A7(b9), FMA7, Dmi7, Gmi7, C7, FMA7, Emi7(bs), A7(b9), Dmi7, Emi7, Eb9, D9, Gmi7, Gmi7, C7, FMA7, D9, Gmi7, Gmi7, C7, Dmi7, B7(#9), Emi7(bs), A7(b9), Dmi7, FMA7, Dmi7, Gmi7, C7

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