



Jazz Clues 1 & 2: Can I Teach This?

2025 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat

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Mindset about "Jazz"

Overview - Jazz Clues Program

Teacher Training Materials

- Notes
- Teacher Training Videos

Student Home Materials

- Reference Book - diagrams
- Music Book - "A Touch of Jazz" - lead sheet format like Acc 1
- Audio - Touch of Jazz songs played by a professional jazz ensemble minus piano
- Optional purchase: *Joe Gilman Plays 'A Touch of Jazz'* audio file (highly recommended!)

Jazz Clues 1 and 2 - Solo Arrangement

- RH plays melody from Touch of Jazz (use reading- AND playing-based clues)
- LH uses Jazz Clue 1 or 2 based on chords from lead sheets (2 notes)

Jazz Clue 3 - Ensemble Playing: Chord Voicing

- What to play - RH chord voicing (uses Acc 1 concepts)
- LH uses Jazz Clue 2

Jazz Clue 4 - Ensemble Playing: Rhythm

- How to play - rhythm (rhythm tracks)
- "Dropping in" - free-form

Can I Teach This?

Prerequisites

- Command over and consciousness of playing-based tools
- Command over Accompaniment 1 program
 - Mastery of all 12 chords in every key
- Completed Reading Rhythm and Reading Notes

Jazz Clue 1

- LH plays 1 & 5 of chord - same regardless of chord type
- RH plays melody from lead sheet
- Main challenge: learning the RH melodies which include challenging rhythms
- Only need to process the first 3 songs in Touch of Jazz using JC1

Jazz Clue 2

- LH plays 1 & 7 of chord - much more versatile and “jazzy” sounding
- RH plays melody from lead sheet
- Process through all songs in Touch of Jazz

Teaching Tips - Jazz Clues 1 & 2

Processing Right Hand

1. Use playing-based tools in addition to reading-based tools
 - Self-generative
 - Quicker
2. Process rhythm as MORs
 - Reinforce RR skills
 - Reverse-engineer difficult rhythms

3. Play RH alone with audio before adding LH

- If your students are not doing this on their own - do it during class!
- Get a feel for melody & rhythm
- STP - RH only, with correct rhythm
- Keep students from 'guessing' at (or simply ignoring) the rhythm

Processing Left Hand - Jazz Clue 1 (1 & 5)

1. Process LH alone - random positions

Processing Left Hand - Jazz Clue 2 (1 & 7)

1. Teach a 'Rule of Thumb' & Exception for the LH

- Rule of Thumb = LH thumb down a whole step from octave
- Exception - Major 7th (LH thumb down a *half* step from octave)
- STP, easier to remember ONE rule
- CP 7th chords from Accompaniment 1

2. Process LH alone: Random positions

- Call out random 7th, major 7th, and minor 7th chords
- Student plays the LH 1 & 7 position, keeping in mind the Rule of Thumb and Exception
- STP - get used to processing 1 & 7 with no other distractions

3. Play LH alone: Touch of Jazz project

- Easier to spot visual patterns when focusing only on LH
- Example: High Five - First 5 measures are all white notes

4. Play LH alone: Audio

- Experience playing with a professional ensemble as the pianist
- Interim step before adding RH helps solidify 1 & 7