



Jazz Clues 3 & 4 Hands-on Workshop

2025 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat

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Overview of Jazz Clues 1 - 4

Clue	LH	RH	Prior Skills Used	Style
1	1&5 (simple trick)	melody	Acc 1, PB tools, RB tools	Solo arrangement
2	1&7 (more versatile trick)	melody	Acc 1, PB tools, RB tools	Solo arrangement
3	BH chord voicing (what to play)		Acc 1, JC2	Ensemble ("comping")
4	BH "dropping in" (how to play)		Acc Variations, JC2 & 3	Ensemble ("comping")

Jazz Clue 3 Tips - Chord voicing

"How to Play"

1. Process only 2-3-5 / 2-3-6 voicing first

(vs. 2-3, 3-5 / 3-6 voicing)

- Other two voicings will be easily inherited (simply omit one note from 2-3-5/6)
- Easier to remove something than to add something new

2. Use a step-by-step approach

- Find LH 1 & 7 (JC2; "rule of thumb")
- Then find RH major or minor chord
- Then make adjustments to find 2-3-5 or 2-3-6 voicing

Practice with a variety of random chords before processing a piece

3. Know some simple substitutions

- JC3 chord voicings apply to 7th chords

Simplest Substitutions for altered or non-7th chords (use if needed to simplify the process for yourself or student 1st time through JC3)			
Chord Type	Replace with	Use voicing	Found in Touch of Jazz songs:
7-9 (7 ^{b9})		3 & 5	The Mirron, Here to Stay, If You Call, High Five
min7-5		2 & 3	Solace of the Wind, Here to Stay, High Five, Once at The Latin, Lament
9, 11 or 13	7 th chord	or use Acc1 chart	If You Call, High Five
m9 or m11	min7		If You Call
major	JC1 LH	3 on bottom, 1 on top	If You Call, High Five
sus	JC1 LH	1 on top, plus ↓5 th	If You Call
m7 ⁺¹¹	min7		Once at The Latin
maj7 ⁺¹³	maj7		Once at The Latin
dim7	JC1 LH	Acc1 dim	If You Call

- Play along with the audio!
 - Experience playing with a professional ensemble as the pianist
 - Understand the 'why'

Jazz Clue 4 Tips - Dropping In

"What to Play" - rhythm

1. Don't skip the air piano

- Introduced in TTMS: "Jazz Clue 4 - The Mirron - Dropping In
- Feeling in the body first helps translate to the keyboard (macro to micro)

2. Apply rhythm tracks to a single chord first

- STP
- Practice dropping in with same chord repeatedly
- Others in shared lesson clap the beat - some on singles, some on doubles, etc.

3. Use the iReal Pro App

- Fun and versatile
- Listen to examples of dropping in
 - remove piano track and play along
- Great practice tool

Additional Tips

For both teachers AND students

- Listen to jazz music - frame of reference
- Acquire access to Joe Gilman Plays "A Touch of Jazz" - fantastic interpretations of the songs from Jazz Clues curriculum
- Next steps after completing all Touch of Jazz songs:
 - Add harmony notes in RH using knowledge of chords
 - Try different chord voicings
 - Add simple fills/embellishments
 - Source from music outside curriculum
 - Jazz Fake Books
 - [The Real Book](#)
 - Individual jazz standards
(Autumn Leaves, Fly Me to the Moon, All the Things You Are etc.)