

Jazz Cats Recorder Collection by Bonnie Rossa and Brad Keller

This illustrated collection of 6 easy-medium jazz pieces for beginning and intermediate recorder players will teach your students about various jazz styles by playing jazzy pieces on the recorder. The kit includes reproducible song sheets, coloring pages for each song, and a performance/accompaniment CD. #JC1 \$15

PERFORMANCE NOTES

1. *Dizzy's BAG* uses rhythms from the swing era of jazz (1930's and 1940's) although the arrangement also borrows from 1950's pop music. The song is presented as an echo song, however, the echo can be replaced by individuals improvising on B A G. More advanced students may add low D E Bb and high D. This creates the "G" pentatonic scale in the addition of the "blues note" Bb (minor third in the key of "G").

Beginner scale: B A G

Advanced scale: D E G A Bb B D

2. *Bossa Cat* is in the style of an Antonio Carlos Jobim bossa nova. The Brazilian bossa nova became popular with jazz musicians in the early 1960's. The advanced harmonies mirrored those of be-bop jazz (1945-1955), while the rhythms intrigued jazz musicians. Since the harmonies are complicated the improvisation sections use a simple two chord "vamp". The beginning soloists should use B A G while more advanced soloists can incorporate C and D. (Though Bossa Cat is in the key of "C", the note "E" is avoided because it doesn't work on the second chord of the vamp. F7)

Beginner scale: B A G

Advanced scale: C D G A B C D

3. *Simba Samba* is in the style of fusion jazz of the 1970's and 1980's. It is based on a samba, which in its basic form is a fast bossa nova. The harmony of the A section is in typical jazz fusion style while the B section is in more of the pop style of smooth jazz (1990-2000's). The A section is used for improvisations. Beginners should use B A G and focus on rhythms more than moving melodic lines. More advanced students may add low D E Bb high D. This forms an E minor pentatonic scale with the blues note Bb (flatted 5th).

Beginner scale: B A G

Advanced scale: D E G A Bb B D

4. *Dixie Cat* is in the style of the first style of jazz Dixieland (1900-1930). The melody adds E to the B A G already learned. The song is composed in an AABA form traditional to the "Tin Pan Ally" style songs. The harmonies of Dixieland seem very simple, however, many of the

chords are secondary dominants and require alterations to the key. For this reason, the jazz soloing note choices are limited to B A G E for both beginner and advanced students.

Beginner scale: B A G E

Advanced scale: B A G E

5. ***Winka Cat*** is a 12 bar blues done in the big band swing era style of the 1930's and 1940's. The deceptively simple melody is off set by the expanding big band arrangement. The improvisation section is a good vehicle for practicing the Bb. The Bb is the minor third “blues note” in the key of G and is an essential part of jazz improvisation. For this song we suggest focusing on the Bb and not using the B natural at all.

Beginner scale: Bb A G

Advanced scale: D E G A Bb D

6. ***Cat Walk*** is in the style of the gospel influenced funky jazz style sometimes called rhythm and blues jazz of the late 1950's and 1960's. The rhythm is borrowed from the 1950's rock and roll. The solo section again features the Bb minor third blues. Although both the B natural and Bb are useable, when used consecutively the Bb usually precedes the B natural and requires some experience. We therefore suggest that beginners use Bb only. More advanced students may use both as long as Bb precedes B natural.

Beginner scale: Bb A G E

Advanced scale: D E G A Bb D

Credits

Compositions:

Brad Keller and Bonnie Rossa

Arrangements:

Brad Keller

Musicians:

Recorder- Bonnie Rossa

Piano/Keyboard - Brad Keller

Drums - Jean Bolduc (Winka Cat, Dizzy's BAG)

Saxophones- Kevin Cowart (Winka Cat)