

# Listening to Jazz

Title:

- Composer: \_\_\_\_\_
- Recording date: \_\_\_\_\_
- Personnel (who is playing and what are they playing) and instrumentation:
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
  4. \_\_\_\_\_
  5. \_\_\_\_\_
  6. \_\_\_\_\_
- Jazz Era/Style (circle one category): Ragtime 1890s (Scott Joplin), Trad Jazz (Dixieland) 1910s, Early Swing (Bix Beiderbecke), Swing (Big Band) 1930s, Bebop (Bird, Monk) 1940s, Cool (Brubeck, Miles) 1950s, Hardbop (Sonny Rollins, Horace Silver) 1950s, Modal (Miles, McCoy Tyner) 1960s and 70s, Jazz fusion (Weather Report) 1970s, Latin jazz (Tito Puente), Brazilian jazz (Jobim), Smooth Jazz (Kenny G), Modern Jazz (Joshua Redman), Modern Fusion (JD Beck, GoGo Penguins), other

Form or vehicle (circle one category): Blues (Blue Monk), 32 bar standard AABA phrase form (Satin Doll), Modal (Impressions), Through composition (Dolphin Dance)

Arrangement:

- Key: \_\_\_\_\_
- Tempo BPM: \_\_\_\_\_
- Is there an introduction? If so, how long?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- How is the head (tune) played? In time (means there is dancing), broken time (The dancers are waiting for the beat, but the band has started), stop time (as heard in Horace Silver's "Sister Sadie" band makes rhythmic stops with the melody continuing), in "4" (the bassist is playing quarter notes), in "2" (the bassist is playing mostly half notes)? Is the drummer playing sticks or brushes?, etc.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Swing or straight 8<sup>th</sup> notes: \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the order of solos? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many choruses does each soloist play or take? (You must count how many times the soloist plays of the form)
  1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

- Do they trade 4's or 8's with the drummer?
- How do they end?
- Do they play a turnaround chord progression at the end of each chorus?
- Is there anything special about the form or structure of the arrangement like interludes or modulations? Listen to Mac The Knife by Ella Fitzgerald live in Berlin for modulations.

## The Solo Line

Listen for:

- broken chords
- blues licks
- scale passages
- chromatic passages
- grace notes
- enclosures
- chromatic approach notes to chord tones
- side stepping (playing a solo line a half step out of key)
- Jazz licks

Notes:

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## At the piano

Licks:

- Steal a lick. To do this easier, listen to a small section until you can sing along with the same confidence as you sing Happy Birthday. Three notes or three hundred notes, a little goes a long way.
- Then transpose the lick into other keys.
- Or figure out the first note of the Solo.

Evaluating a Jazz Soloist from Jerry Cocker's book Listening to Jazz.

- Tone quality aka sound
- Technique aka chops
- Time feel
- Tonal materials

- Emotional feeling
- Melodiousness
- Vehicles aka range of repertoire (bags)
- Versatility (bags)
- Innovativeness, inventiveness, creativity, and originality