

## Melodic Jazz Improvisation

1. Listen- you will understand and grasp a lot from listening to as much jazz as possible.
  - a. Listen to all instruments not just your own.
  - b. Listen to lots of different styles of music and different styles of jazz
2. Learn and play as many melodies as possible –
  - a. learn first to sing the melodies-learn the words
  - b. play the melody
3. What makes a good melody?
  - a. Step wise movement with an occasional leap
  - b. Melodies use repeating elements
  - c. An octave and a half range
  - d. Incorporate a climactic moment
4. Learn the form of the tune
5. Practice scales, chords, patterns and segments
  - a. Practicing these things help you become proficient on your instrument
  - b. Be able to identify scale notes
6. Memorize Licks – these things will help build your jazz vocabulary
7. Call and response
8. Transcribe solos
9. Fake books, play alongs and recordings
10. Analyze other players -not only their solos but their style
11. Practice articulations and variations –
  - a. copy your favorite players articulations
12. Learn Contra -facts to jazz tunes
13. Start a small group out of your big band
  - a. There are more opportunities to improvise and play in a small group than in a big band
14. Learn the history of jazz
15. Incorporate improvising jazz in your daily warm up
16. Clark Terry said ..... Imitate(copy ideas) -Assimilate (gather all the information you can)- Innovate-(you can't create new the things for the most part until you have learned the old things-there are some exceptions. )