

Basic Rhythm Section Rehearsal Techniques (IAJE-TTI)

by

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General

Rehearse the vocal jazz ensemble without rhythm section and vice versa.

Bring in bass & piano first to rehearse with group – then in a rehearsal or two,
add the drums.

Need to play together outside of class.

Need to listen to great rhythm sections (Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson, Ray Brown
Trio, Hal Galper Trio, Keith Jarrett Trio, Red Garland Trio, et al)

Give rhythm section a tune out front before you bring on the vocalists.

Rhythm sections must play musically and use dynamics.

Time

The most important concept in jazz!

Speak phrases for teaching time.

Use good jazz articulation to help with time.

Learn the basics fundamentals of your instrument.

Study privately with a good teacher.

Listen to professional groups with good time (Oscar Peterson Trio, Count Basie, etc.)

Individual Instrument Concepts

Piano:

How to voice chords and comp

Piano usually does not double melodic notes of soloists.

Piano does not need to play all the changes during tutti sections.

Piano part must reflect alterations of vocal chart.

In static and moving chord changes, piano player thinks and moves melodically.

Piano – limited, if any, use of sustain pedal.

Learn correct voicings (Voicings by Frank Mantooth-Hal Leonard) a start.

Guitar:

How to voice chords and comp

How to interact with the piano

Half step approaches to changes

Sound and equipment

Amp Placement

Bass:

How to write and play bass lines

Bass lines – Must have length.

Use in-line tuner. Fundamental of pitch must be correct.

Use acoustic bass (if player plays in tune) and/or electric bass, depending on the styles of charts.

Use 'kickers' in quarter-note bass lines.

Drums:

How to play the basic beats

Ends of charts – Three types for drum set player:

Long loud

Long soft

Short Loud (Fat)

Long notes in ensembles must be long on drum set - short must be short.

Bass drum sound must have length – it needs to have a ring to it, otherwise the sound will not carry.

Set-up tutti ensemble figures.

Play non-repetitive cymbal pattern.

Ask for 'colors' (cymbals and subdivision when singing ballads).

Don't ask drummers to play lighter on up tempo tunes – have them choke up on sticks.

On slow groove tunes, have the drummer accent the third note of the triplet, not down beats.

Latin Music

Latin music needs to be played correctly with the correct instrumentation:

Brazilian (non-clave) – transparent sound

Shaker/cabasa

Triangle

Agogo Bells

Afro-cuban (clave)

Congas

Bongo bell

Bongos

Timbales

Thank you!

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