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Jazz for String Players: A bibliography

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Jazz for String Players

A bibliography by Renata Bratt and Paula Zeitlin for the IAJE String Caucus

Contents

Jazz History	1
Jazz Strings Instruction Books	1
Other Useful Methods and Jazz Studies, non-string specific.....	3
Until you find a band: play-along recordings	4
Standard Equipment: Fakebooks	5
Arrangements for Jazz String Ensembles by Publisher	5

Here is the format used for an individual entry:

title

author(s)

publisher

comment

Jazz History

Mark Chung's *Jazz Strings* website contains a fine bibliography, discography, and a wealth of historical information. You can find it at:

<http://shoko.calarts.edu/~chung/jazzviolin.html>

In addition to biographies of individual musicians and to general books on jazz styles and periods, there are three very useful tape or CD sets:

The Talking Violin (audiotape series)

by Julie Lyonn Lieberman and Dr. Billy Taylor

Improvised Music Collective, P.O. Box 495-A, NYC, NY 10024

This set of five tapes covers Blues Fiddle, Early Jazz Violin, String Bands, New Age Strings, and Violin of the Eighties.

The Instrumental History of Jazz

by Dr. Willie L. Hill, Jr.

N2K Encoded Jazz, N2KE-10004, 1997

This enhanced two-CD set is an excellent compilation of examples from different jazz periods. It will play on all stereos and most Macintosh and Windows computers.

The Smithsonian Collection of Classic Jazz
Smithsonian 2100
currently distributed by Rounder Records,
Cambridge

Jazz Strings Instruction Books

A New and Innovative System for Learning to Improvise for Strings

by David N. Baker

Jamey Aebersold Jazz Inc., 1211 Aebersold Drive, New Albany, IN 47150

1-800-456-1388

A method for all strings by a master jazz educator.

Stringed Instruments Improvisation, Vol. I (Violin and Viola) and Vol. II Cello and Bass)

by David N. Baker

Van Nuys, CA: Alfred Publishing, 1976

All levels.

Salsa Violin: How to Play Salsa, Charanga and Latin Jazz Violin

by Sam Bardfeld

Gerard & Sarzin

Features the history of the violin's role in Afro-Cuban music, discussion of technique and clavé, transcription and analysis of 16 solos by major artists, with a CD of the solos and play-along tracks.

Jazz Improvisation Made Easy

by John Blake and Jody Harmon
1993

Box 186, 301 Littleton Rd., Westford, MA
Intermediate levels. For violin, viola and cello. Book and CD with four sections, each with a jazz composition, scale patterns, call and response, improvised solo by John Blake, solo transcription, and play-along track. Each section uses a different major scale, so that students can improvise immediately. Both swing and Latin styles are included.

Fiddling Chord Book

by Craig Duncan

Mel Bay Publishing

Helpful guide to chord voicings for the violinist.

Jazz Violin

by Matt Glaser and Stephane Grappelli

New York: Oak Publications, 1981

History, discography, and transcribed solos of six great violinists. Intermediate and advanced.

Jazz Chord Studies for Violin

by Matt Glaser and Joe Viola

Boston: Berklee College of Music, 1984

Intermediate-advanced studies and etudes.

Creative Ability Development (for violin, viola, cello, or piano)

by Alice Kay Kanack

Summy-Birchard Inc./Warner Brothers
Publications

Entry-level/beginning improvisation method using jazz, blues, Latin, and classical styles, with accompanying CD.

Improvisation for Children

by Alice Kay Kanack

Warner Brothers

Book and CD method for pre-schoolers, contains 27 different songs and games to help children expand their creative musical abilities.

Reading Key Jazz Rhythms

by Fred Lipsius with Evan Price, violin
Advance Music, 1997

Distributed by Sher Music Co., P.O. Box
445, Petaluma, CA 94953

A book and two CD set of jazz etudes based on blues and jazz standards, each emphasizing an important jazz rhythm. Includes play-along tracks. Other versions are available for other instruments. Use trombone version for bass clef readers.

Blues Fiddle

by Julie Lyonn Lieberman

New York: Oak Publications

History of blues fiddle and tunes "in the style of". Beginner-intermediate. Good discography.

Improvising Violin (revised ed.)

by Julie Lyonn Lieberman

Huiksi Music, Box495, NYC, NY 10024

Also available as instructional audio series through Homespun Tapes: 1-800-33-TAPES.

A survey of improvised violin styles.

Tonic to Chromatic, Tonal Structural Patterns of Stringed Instruments Tuned in 4ths and 5ths. Vol. IV--Violoncello

by Jeffrey McFarland-Johnson

Johnsong Music, P.O. Box 3646, Napa, CA,
www.johnsong.com

Basic jazz theory and a lexicon of intervals, chords, and scale forms as they fit on the cello fingerboard.

The Jazz Fiddle Wizard

by Martin Norgaard

Mel Bay Publishers

A step-by-step jazz violin instruction book and CD. For intermediate/advanced violinists. This method teaches improvisational patterns by using tunes and chords from standard jazz repertoire.

Jazz Philharmonic

by Randy Sabien and Bob Phillips
Alfred Publishers

For string orchestra students who are learning their instruments and/or at the same time learning basic jazz concepts. Each of the books presents original tunes with interchangeable parts, backgrounds, bass lines, and solos. Any combination of string instruments will work using this format. Beginning improvisation is handled with preparatory rhythms, scales, call-and-response, with musical listening examples on the accompanying CD (purchased separately).

Jazz Cello, Viola, or Violin, a book and CD

by Chris White with Amy Merrill
Cello Works, 501 Linn St., Ithaca, NY
14850

Toll free (877) 665-5815 (phone/fax with credit card) or

www.newdirectionscello.com (go to "Store")

Three jazz tunes (blues, jazz standard, and Latin) are featured in this method for strings. Includes good advice on improvisational techniques (note choices, accompaniment patterns, etc) and jazz string history.

Other Useful Methods and Jazz Studies, non-string specific

There are hundreds of jazz methods books, etude books, and transcriptions, but a few we have found very useful and clear are:

The Charlie Parker Omnibook, bass or treble clef

by Jamey Aebersold and Ken Slone

The great alto saxophone player's transcribed solos. Excellent for the advanced string player as jazz etudes and source of ideas.

Improvisational Patterns: the Blues

by David Baker

New York, Colin Publishers, 1980

An important jazz educator (and cellist), Baker has many more books, distributed through Aebersold.

How to Play Bebop, for all instruments, vol. 1-3

by David Baker

Alfred Publishing Co. Inc., 16380 Roscoe Blvd. POB 10003, Van Nuys, CA 91410

A set of books for intermediate through advanced improvisers wishing to learn basic "bebop licks".

Inside Improvisation Series: Vol. 1 Melodic Structures, Vol. 2 Pentatonics, Vol. 3 Jazz Live

by Jerry Bergonzi

Advance Music.

Each comes with CD.

How to Improvise

by Hal Crook

Advance Music, 1991

Includes 2 CDs. A very clearly organized methods book, covering almost all improvisational topics.

Approaching the Standards, Jazz Improvisation Series Vol. 1-3. Treble Clef or Bass Clef book and CD

by Dr. Willie L. Hill, Jr.

Warner Bros. Publications

A very friendly format for any instrument, these three books each feature eight classic jazz tunes with accompaniment, discography, and composer information. Nice jazz language examples for each piece as well as very clear chord charts are included. Recommended for good junior high players and above.

Teaching Jazz, A Course of Study

by the International Association of Jazz Educators

MENC, 1806 Robert Fulton Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4348

A basic book for all teachers interested in teaching improvisation. Particularly useful is the chapter on jazz in general music, with many ideas for incorporating improvisational concepts when teaching young children.

Ten Easy Jazz Duets (for C instruments or Bass Clef)

by John LaPorta with Greg Nielsen
Miami: Warner Bros. Publications, 1996
Beginner-intermediate, with CD. Good for learning to read jazz rhythms.

The Jazz Theory Book

by Mark Levine
Sher Music Co., PO Box 445, Petaluma, CA
A 552 page book written in a straightforward and easy to understand style, with many musical examples. It starts with the basics and moves on. For teachers, advanced high school and college students.

A Chromatic Approach to Jazz Harmony and Melody

by David Liebman
Advance Music, 1991
An ear-opening approach for experienced improvisers, and a classic. Includes CD of examples and practice tracks.

Comprehensive Technique for Jazz Musicians

by Bert Ligon
Houston Publishing Inc. distributed by Hal Leonard
Very useful for musicians with basic understanding of jazz tunes and materials.

Muy Caliente

by Rebeca Mauleon
Sher Music, 1999
Afro-Cuban play-along CD and book with great rhythm section. Stereo separation for cello/bass. See also Mauleon's *Salsa Guidebook* and *101 Montunos* (with CDs) for thorough exploration of this style, also published by Sher Music.

14 Blues and Funk Etudes, (for C instruments), with two CDs

by Bob Mintzer
Warner Bros. Publications. (Aebersold dist.)
Etudes and jam tracks, intermediate & fun!

Until you find a band: play-along recordings

Again, these are only a few of many play-along materials available. (alas, viola players have to read treble or bass)

A New Approach to Jazz Improvisation

by Jamey Aebersold
Jamey Aebersold Jazz, Inc., P.O. Box 1244,
New Albany, IN, 47150
1-800-456-1388

More than 90 volumes of a book plus CD or tape. These are the most popular play-along books, with a complete rhythm section playing several choruses of each tune, giving you a chance to take long solos. The books cover blues, jazz standards, Latin jazz, contemporary jazz, and jazz by specific composers. The best ones for beginning and intermediate players are:

Vol. 2 Nothin' But Blues

blues in several keys, tempos

Vol. 24 Major and Minor

for scale pattern work using different jazz rhythms

Vol. 42 Blues in All Keys

self-explanatory

Vol. 54 Maiden Voyage

jazz standards and modal tunes

Vol. 70 Killer Joe

standards

Books of transcribed bass lines are available for all volumes.

New Real Book Play-Alongs

Sher Music Co, Petaluma, CA
Intermediate. This is a series of three CDs/tapes, each with ten songs, from the *New Real Book Volume I* (a popular "fake book" for jazz improvisers). They are: Jazz Classics, Jazz Standards, and Pop-Fusion. Also, play-along CD for tunes from *The Latin Real Book*.

Rock and Roll Backup

Tape/CD

Homespun Tapes

1-800-33-TAPES

It's not exactly jazz but it's a lot of fun. 15 different rhythm grooves, several blues tunes. Homespun also carries videos by Matt Glaser, Darol Anger and Julie Lyonn-Lieberman, and backup tracks for David Grisman's Dawg Grass/Jazz.

Standard Equipment: Fakebooks

If you're serious about playing jazz with all kinds of musicians, it's good to own a fakebook (melody and chord symbols only) that is used by lots of people. The oldest one is the Real Book (not legal nor always easy to get) but also useful are the New Real Book Vol. 1, 2 and 3, the Standards Real Book and The Latin Real Book, all published by Sher.

Arrangements for Jazz String Ensembles by Publisher

All include at least one section for improvisation.

Alfred Publications

Jazz Philharmonic

by Randy Sabien and Bob Phillips

Twelve original jazz compositions scored for any combination of stringed instruments. Available for Violin, Viola, Cello and Teachers Manual, including full score. Excellent for beginning strings, and beginning improvisers at any level.

August Watters Music Publishing

P.O. Box 180242, Boston, MA

Publisher of arrangements of jazz standards for jazz string quartet. Write for complete listing. Intermediate-advanced.

Compositions by Bert Ligon

University of South Carolina, School of Music, Columbia, South Carolina 29208

Original compositions arranged for jazz string quartet or string orchestra with a rhythm section, many based on standard jazz chord changes. Intermediate-advanced.

Complete listing available with sample pdf files for viewing at:

<http://www.music.sc.edu/departments/jazz/JazzStringsMusic.HTML>

E&R Music Engravers

17 Iris Way,

Haverhill, MA 01830-1595

(978)373-2918

eandr@eudoramail.com or

www.angelfire.com/ma/eandr

Publisher of originals and arrangements for jazz string quartet and jazz string ensembles by Miriam Rabson, as recorded by the Really Eclectic String Quartet (RESQ). Selections range from jazz standards to klezmer/jazz fusion. Write for complete listing. Intermediate-advanced.

Fiddlistics Music

POB 19297

Oakland, CA 94619

Publishers of originals and arrangements by Darol Anger, David Balakrishnan, Mark Summer, Tracy Silverman, and Danny Seidenberg, as recorded by the Turtle Island String Quartet and others. Includes pieces for solo cello, jazz string quartet, and jazz string orchestra. Useful performance notes, suggested solos and suggested bass lines are available as well. Styles include rock, R&B, fiddle/jazz fusion, jazz standards, and more. Intermediate-advanced. Some of these are now carried by Sher Publications.

Huiksi Music

P.O. Box 495

New York, NY 10024

Publishers of originals and arrangements by Julie Lyonn Lieberman, including suite for strings and rhythm section.

Note: there are other arrangements for jazz band and combos with string sections which do not include string improvisation. Many of these have been out of print for many years, but are gradually coming back into circulation.

There are also new arrangements for improvising strings which are available over the internet. You can use the information presented here as the starting point for a search. Here's how: use your favorite search engine (google.com is a particularly good one) and enter the name of one of the authors or the title of one of the publications; you should then see a list of related items.