

# GET YOUR WHOLE BAND IMPROVISING—AND YOUR RHYTHM SECTION GROOVING—IN 10 MINUTES A DAY.

PRESENTED BY RICK HIRSCH

## **YOUR MISSION** (should you choose to accept it)

To help all of your jazz ensemble students become confident, comfortable, well-informed, and independent improvisors, thereby helping the entire band play at a higher level.

## **AN APPROACH TO TRY**

By devoting time in every rehearsal to group improvisation activities that are derived from your band's present repertoire.

## **AND HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?**

Participate in this session and find out.

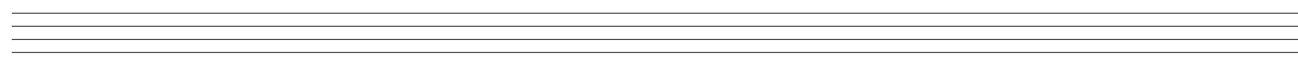
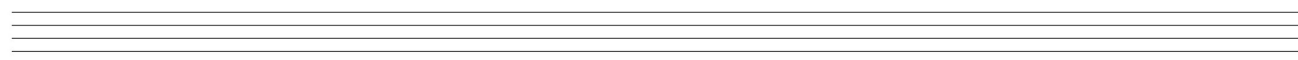
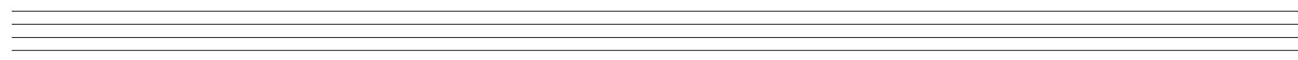
## **BENEFITS OF THIS APPROACH**

- It equips your students with the tools needed to play a convincing solo on a tune(s) that they will be performing.
- It engages your students in a different way.
- It broadens your students' overall musicianship with understanding of theoretical and structural concepts.
- It boosts students' confidence in their ability to improvise or play "off the page."
- It reinforces your own musicianship as a well-trained music educator.
- It makes your actual *chart* sound better.
- It's fun.

## **FOLLOW UP**

Download the PowerPoint slides at [HirschMusic.com/Iowa](http://HirschMusic.com/Iowa)

Contact Rick Hirsch with any questions (see footer).



## >> Starter Lesson Plans (assuming 10-15 minutes per rehearsal)

### Rehearsal 1

Teach melody (if applicable) *(sing, then play)*

Teach accompaniment: root movement & song structure *(identify key, scale degrees)*

Play melody & accompaniment together

Get rhythm section grooving *(whatever feels good and natural for them to play)*

Play melody, accompaniment and rhythm section together

Get feet wet with some group improvisation over this structure *(entire section at a time - no soloists)*

### Rehearsal 2

Review, refresh as needed on melody & accompaniment

More group improvisations

Discuss improvisation strategy(-ies): Ask *"What can you play when improvising on this song?"*

More group improvisations *(now, direct students to try something you just discussed)*

### Rehearsal 3

Have drummer count it off and play your "tune."

Everyone plays melody and accompaniment.

Some group improvisation

Discuss improvisation strategy(-ies): Ask *"What can you play when improvising on this song?"*

More group improvisations *(now, direct students to try something you just discussed)*

### Rehearsal 4

Have drummer count it off and play your "tune."

Everyone plays melody and accompaniment.

Call-and-response (led by teacher OR student)

*\* Caller should make phrases clear. If it sounds like most people get it "right" in their response, move on to new phrase. If not, then repeat the phrase.*

### Rehearsal 5

Have bassist count it off and play your "tune."

Everyone plays melody and accompaniment.

Improvise in smaller groups (twos or threes).

Introduce Rhythm Sheets.

### Rehearsal 6

Have bassist count it off and play your "tune."

Everyone plays melody and accompaniment.

Go through rhythm sheet....Then, improvisation throughout band as you see fit.

### Rehearsal 7 and beyond

*You're on your own! Try to stay attuned to the students and gradually introduce more ideas, including: triad structure, leading tone, trading solos, changing rhythm section feel & dynamics, section "riffs"*