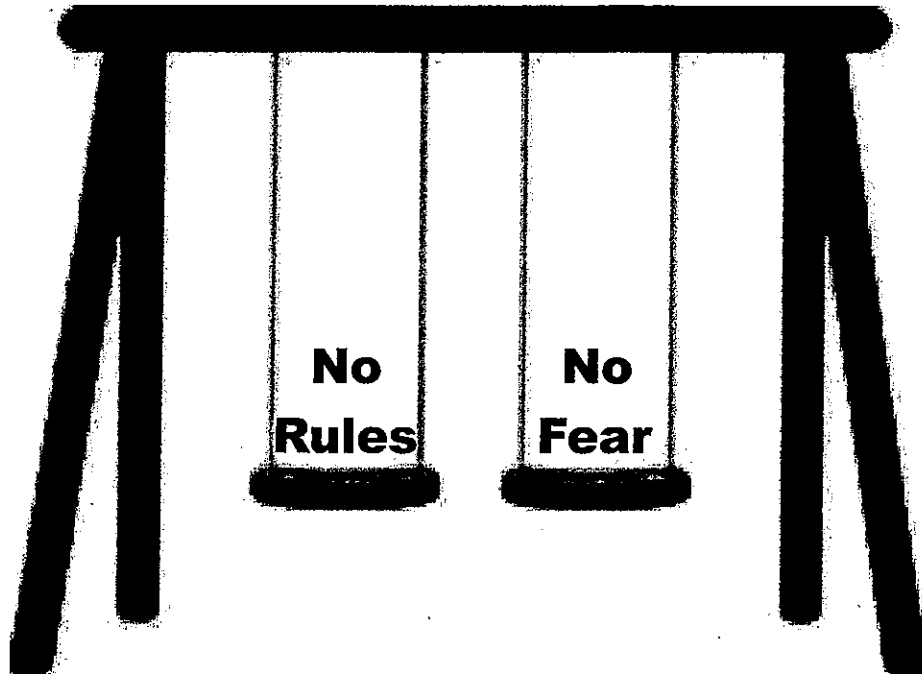


PLAY FREEDOM:



***Jazz Improvisation
for Everyone***

**Tom Kamp
Berkeley Heights Public Schools
NJMEA Conference
February 21, 2019
East Brunswick, NJ**





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PLAY FREEDOM: JAZZ IMPROVISATION FOR EVERYONE

SUGGESTED PROGRESSION TO FOLLOW
(Also In My Book):

RHYTHM:	MELODY:
Top Ten 2-beat figures	Count/scat figures
Variations on TT (short, long, more)	Play any note (<i>creative choices</i>)
Simple 4-beat figures	Play F concert
Complex 4 beat figures	2 note groups (F-Ab, F-Eb, F-D)
Pick-up notes	3-4 notes (Combine previous)
Triplets	Root notes (add Bb, C)
2-bar licks	Pentatonic Blues Scale (same as above)
4 bar licks	Minor Blues Scale
12 bar forms	Major Blues Scale

(Book is broken down into Beginner, Intermediate, advanced sections)



Rhythm First! A Beginner's Guide to Jazz Improvisation, by Tom Kamp.
Published by Sher Music, www.shermusic.com

www.norulesnofearjazz.com



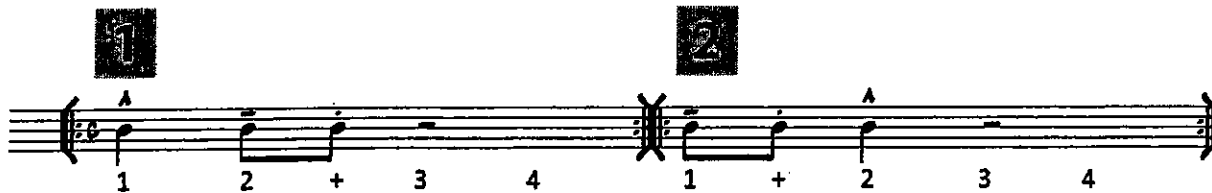
CHAPTER 2

TWO-BEAT FIGURES

 **2**  On this track, the only background music is drums, so you can focus on listening and locking into the swing rhythm.

THE TOP TEN 2-beat figures: There are only ten different 2-beat figures that combine quarter-notes, swing eighth-notes and rests. *Everything that comes later* is built upon these ten figures. The counting is written below each figure. Even though the counting looks like standard eighth-note counting, remember these figures all use swing eighth-notes. The articulations will guide you in the swing feel. Also notice that since these two-beat figures are written in the first half of the measure, beats three and four are always rests. Use that time to get ready for your turn to perform or listen to the next example on the CD.

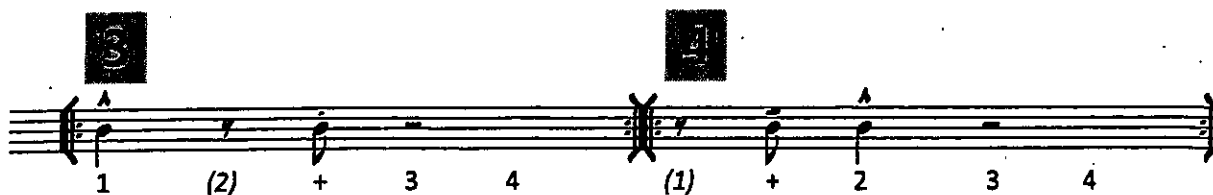
Listen to the CD to get an idea how each figure sounds while you count the beats and sub-divisions out loud and in your head. Later on, echo by either saying, singing, or



1 2 + 3 4 1 + 2 3 4

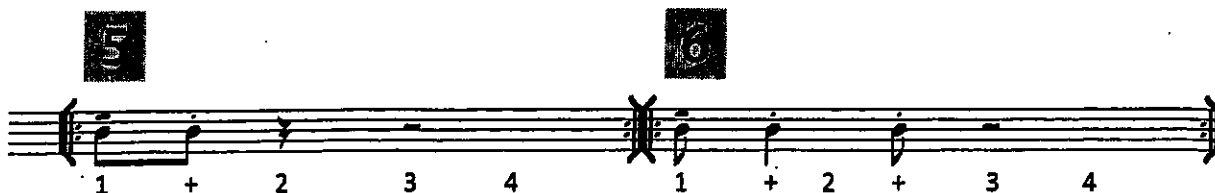
You may hear the voice on the track fill in the rest(s) between or before notes with a quiet syllable such as "um" or "uh" below and later on. Try it, it will help you feel the time in the rests. You could also use the number count in your head (you are still doing that, right?) to fill in the feeling of the beats.

Figures Three and Four correspond to Figures One and Two above: the only difference is rests have been inserted on regular intervals.



1 (2) + 3 4 (1) + 2 3 4

Remember, the exact syllable you sing is unimportant – the FEEL is what matters most!



1 + 2 3 4 1 + 2 + 3 4

Introducing...Melody! (Two Notes at a Time)

Tom Kamp

Flute
Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Trumpet in B \flat

Horn in F

Trombone
Baritone

Tuba

Glockenspiel

F Concert Pentatonic Blues Scale

The image displays a musical score for the F Concert Pentatonic Blues Scale, arranged for a jazz ensemble. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of ten staves, each representing a different instrument. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute/Oboe:** The top staff, which includes both instruments. It features a melodic line with various accidentals (sharps, flats, and naturals) and rests.
- Clarinet in Bb:** The second staff, showing a similar melodic line to the Flute/Oboe part.
- Alto Saxophone:** The third staff, with a melodic line that includes some chromatic movement.
- Tenor Saxophone:** The fourth staff, featuring a simpler melodic line with fewer notes.
- Trumpet in Bb:** The fifth staff, showing a melodic line with some chromaticism.
- Horn in F:** The sixth staff, with a melodic line that includes some chromatic movement.
- Trombone/Baritone:** The seventh staff, featuring a melodic line with some chromaticism.
- Tuba:** The eighth staff, showing a melodic line with some chromatic movement.
- Glockenspiel:** The bottom staff, which provides a rhythmic accompaniment with a steady pattern of notes.

The score is written in a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a time signature of 4/4. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, accidentals, and stems.

Rhythm First! A Beginner's Guide to Jazz Improvisation, by Tom Kamp.
Published by Sher Music, www.shermusic.com

www.norulesnofearjazz.com



Strategies & Teaching Tools

- Repeat, reinforce, remember
- Ear Training
- What about Percussion?
- Imitation, Variation, Conversation
- Play to a track or open up a chart

The “Music” Test

- If it sounds like music, it is
- The 13th pitch
- Topic Sentence

No Rules, No Fear

- Encourage, Scaffold, Support
- Comedy/Theater Improv: "Yes, and..."
- Remember: "No Mistakes" = Go Positive
- No "Gotchas"
- Old Excuses

RHYTHM FIRST: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO JAZZ IMPROVISATION, BY TOM KAMP. PUBLISHED BY SHER MUSIC, WWW.SHERMUSIC.COM



PICK ONE, PT. 1



1

TOM KAMP

Musical staff with notes and rhythm markings. The staff is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains four eighth notes with stems pointing up, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure contains four eighth notes with stems pointing down, followed by a quarter rest. Below the staff, the rhythm is indicated by the sequence of numbers and plus signs: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the first measure and 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the second measure.

Musical staff with notes and rhythm markings. The staff is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains four eighth notes with stems pointing down, followed by a quarter rest. The second measure contains four eighth notes with stems pointing up, followed by a quarter rest. Below the staff, the rhythm is indicated by the sequence of numbers and plus signs: 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the first measure and 1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + for the second measure.

PLAY FREEDOM: JAZZ IMPROVISATION FOR EVERYONE

Five things you can use on Monday:

1. Improv Games - ice breakers, anticipatory set, freedom, play
 - a. Jeffrey Agrell
 - b. Steve Treseler
2. Rhythm First- get them listening and swinging
 - a. Create rhythm patterns or use patterns from charts
 - b. Read it, Listen/Play-along, Listen/Copy
 - c. any note, one note, add a note
3. Method-book style
 - a. Build on previous knowledge- HBTY, JBR
 - b. Introduce new concepts one at a time
4. Play for them - Call and Response (or use a track)
 - a. then "Imitation, Variation, Conversation"
5. The Music Test

And three more as a bonus:

1. Center on F Concert for Winds/Percussion
 - a. E for strings/Orff instruments
 - b. Eb for Piano
 2. ALL Concert Band Percussionists on Mallets
 3. Start Early
 - a. 2nd g rhythm sticks, boomwhackers for pitch
 - b. 3rd g recorder improv
 - c. 4th G Orff improv/ composition
 - d. 5th G scat/Orff higher level in spiral
- + Feierabend "Arioso"



Resources

- www.shermusic.com
- www.norulesnofearjazz.com
- Jamey Aebersold www.jazzbooks.com
- "Improvisation Games for Classical Musicians"
by Jeffrey Agrell (Gia Publications, Inc.)
- www.stevetres.com
- www.wbgo.org
- Band-in-a-box software: www.pgmusic.com
- ireal pro - app or mac desktop

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