



# Music Ed Insights



Three Insights to take with you from...

## Jazz and More, Step by Step with Jerry Tolson

Improve jazz pedagogy by avoiding two common pitfalls: music that's too difficult, or guiding students to “play just these notes” or “play the blues scale.”

- Do more chord arpeggios in training, rather than scales.
- Consider standards with approachable changes, like Summertime and Autumn Leaves, as vehicles.

### Be thoughtful in your interpretation.

- Remember that the classical approach works for precise interpretation of what's on the page. In jazz, the written music is not to be interpreted exactly. For example, the quarter note can be way shorter than the eighth note.
- Consider this: before playing a single note, learn everything you can about the composer, the piece, and the context in which it was written.

### Walk before you run.

- Avoid starting with Charlie Parker or JJ Johnson as examples to emulate and learn from.
- Instead, use stylistic examples from those who use fewer notes, like Lester Young, Curtis Fuller, Wynton Kelly, and Miles fucking Davis.
- Bring in educational pros to work with students - great performers who understand the “walk before you can run” concept.

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