



VOCALISTS

A JAZZ SINGER CRASH COURSE

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WHAT (OR WHO) IS A JAZZ VOCALIST?

A vocalist who improvises and sings jazz music.

Jazz is an improvisatory music

Repertoire

Training, lessons, and work.

Steeped in tradition of jazz music

Jazz instrumentalist training

Bebop, post-bop, swing, bossa, hard bop, modern.

WHERE DOES SINGING APPEAR IN THE JAZZ IDIOM?

- Soloists
- Duo
- Quartet (bass, drums, piano)
- Ensemble (3+ voices)
- Backgrounds
 - Chord singing/support
 - Church choirs
 - Wedding Gigs
 - Mainstage Events (Grammys, Superbowl, Festivals, Commercials, etc.)



SKILL SET OF JAZZ VOCALS (OR ANY MUSICIAN)

Techniqu
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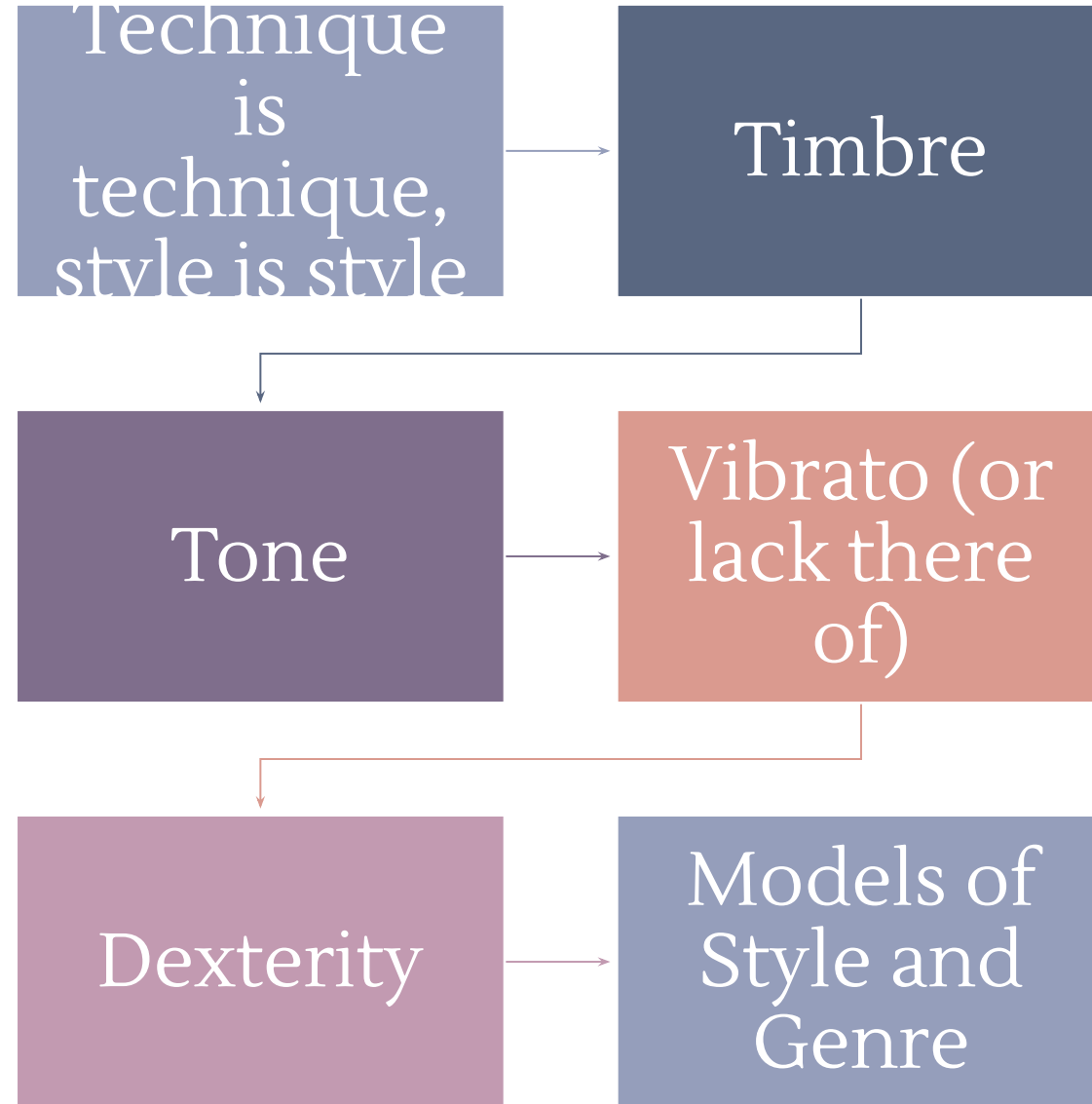
Repertoire

Vocabular
y

History

Marketing

TECHNIQUE



TIMBRE AND TONE



TIMBRE, TONE WITH STYLE

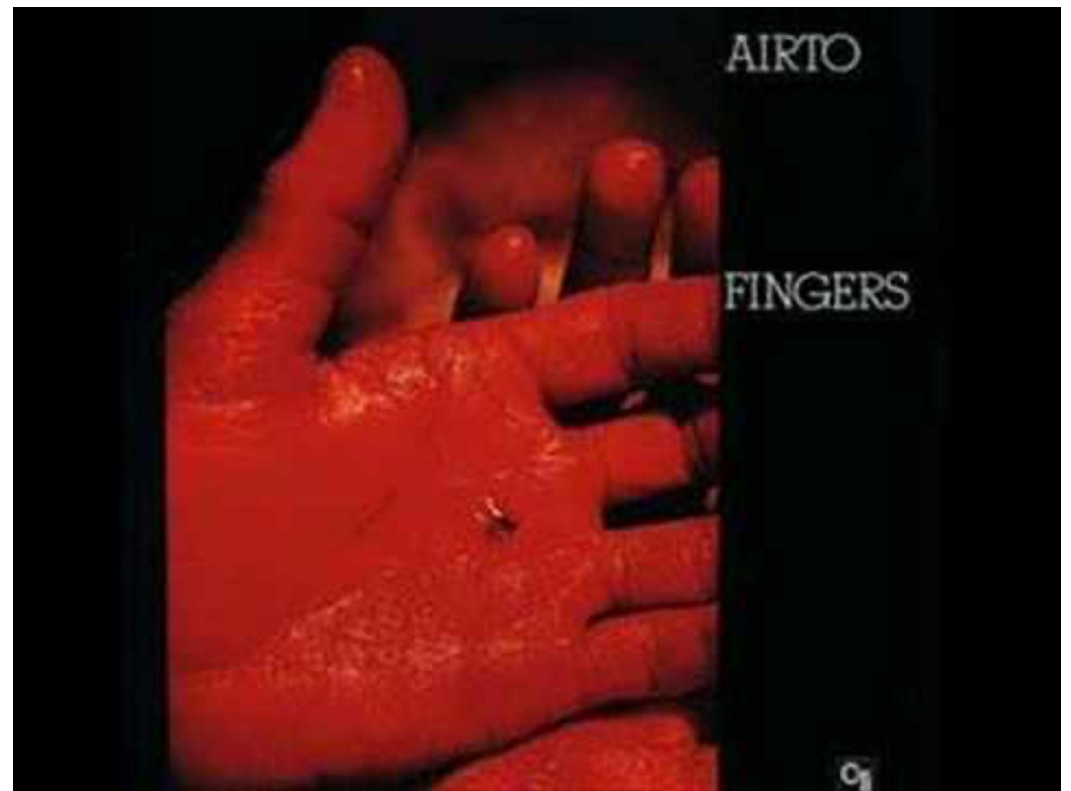


STYLE

- Swing, Latin (very large umbrella), Straight 8ths
- Not just Great American Songbook!
- SIGHT READING SKILLS
 - Preparedness with musical settings of all kinds
- Blending with instruments
 - Heaviness, tone, vowels
 - Texture, Colors, double melody or individual sound



DEXTERITY (TIME-FEEL AND AGILITY)



REPERTOIRE

- What is the gig?
- How much soloing are you going to do (hopefully a lot)
- Duo gig – 20-25 tunes
- 1 Hour Set -- 10 tunes
- Memorization
- KNOW the changes, the lyrics, the melody
- 1899 (earlier probably) – now
 - Ragtime, Swing, Big Band, Bebop, Post Bop, Hard Bop, Jazz Fusion, Modern, etc.



BAND WORK

- Be the leader, take charge
- Know the changes, know the tune, know the form.
- Eye contact, verbal communication before beginning (even during)
- Guide with cues, don't be afraid to guide but don't direct (the band knows what they're doing)
- Count off, key, tune, style, and form
- Endings and Intros - how do you want to start? Ending may be a moments notice
- Be kind always – be curious always





TUNE LIST - NEEDS!

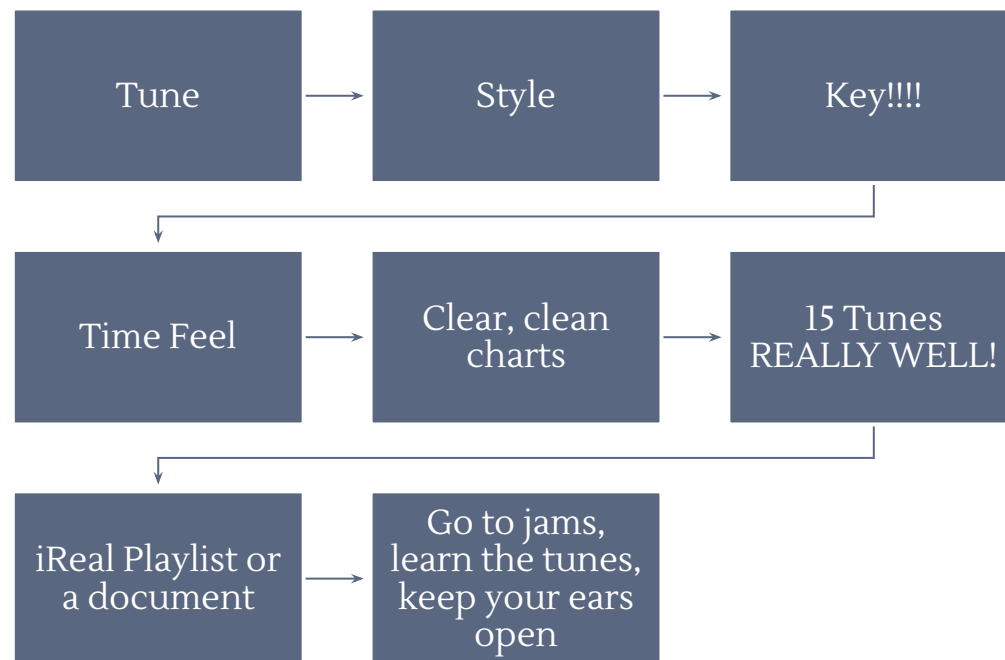


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 - Anthropology (C)
 - Autumn Leaves (Eb)
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 - Beautiful Love (Am)
 - Bernie's Tune (Dm)
 - Billies Bounce (C)
 - Black Coffee (Bb)
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 - I Could Write a Book (G)
 - I Didn't Know What Time It Was (C)
 - In Your Own Sweet Way (Fm)
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VOCABULARY (IMPROVISATION)

- “Carving changes” or outlining the chord changes (1,3,5,7,9)
- Melody, Harmony, Rhythm
- Lyrics
- Patterns or “licks”
- Resources:
 - Darmon Meader, ”Vocal Improvisation: An Instrumental Approach
- LISTEN!
- Transcriptions and etudes
- Syllables:
 - Da, Va, Ba, Do, ‘n’, Ah
 - Open sound – emulate horns
- Resources:
 - Spotify Playlist:



MARKETING

- Instagram
- Business Cards (CD)
- Social Media
- EP
- Website





THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Jazz singers are jazz musicians FIRST
- Internal Sense of Pitch
 - Piano, asking for pitch
- Tunes in right key
- Arrangements
- Communicate with band with non-verbal communication (mic directing, arm movements, eye contact, etc.)
- Check your mic – make sure its loud enough, not too loud (up or down hand signal at sound engineer to give more or less volume)
- Take a moment to ground yourself before counting off. Sing a little bit if you need to to find your quarter note beat!
- Bring your strengths into your artistry, they make you unique!
- What do you like about jazz? What about jazz singing?
- What do you want to learn? What kind of artists do you want to be?

THANKS <3

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