

Chop-Monster 1

JAZZ LANGUAGE TUTOR

Shelly Berg

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Welcome

As you go through this Chop-Monster book, you will find that improvising jazz is easy and fun, making use of your own inner creativity. Learning to improvise is just like learning to speak. You learned to talk by listening to and imitating your parents, family members and friends. And now you all speak the same language, but you speak it in your own, unique voice.

You will enjoy learning the language of jazz improvisation by listening to and imitating a play-along Compact Disc*. As you listen to the recorded examples, all you have to do is trust your ear. Sing the melodies back, and then find them on your instrument. Soon, these melodies will become your language, and you will be speaking jazz in your own, unique voice. The more you practice the easier and more fun it will be. In the end, you'll be the Chop-Monster!

Have fun!

*Your teacher will play the CD during class. You may also purchase your own CD (sold separately, #251028).



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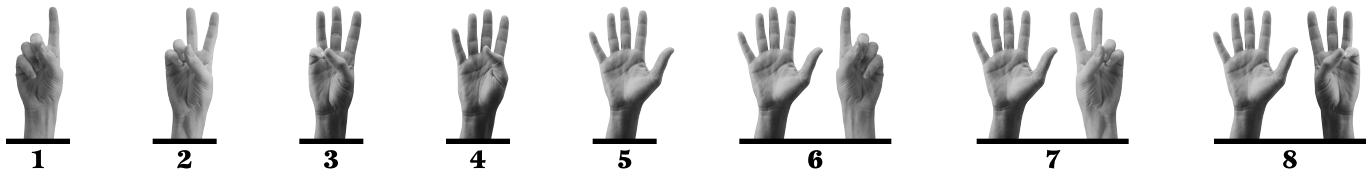
Finding Your Chops

Great jazz improvisers have great **chops**. Your chops are your abilities: tone, technique, and most important for improvisers, the ability to create melodies on the spot. When a musician has the highest abilities (the most chops), the other musicians call him or her a "monster."

Note to Drummers: You have an opportunity to use the call-and-response tracks included in this book to develop great musicianship in jazz. Participate in all units by **singing** in response to the tracks as indicated. Additionally, when it is time to play in response to the tracks, **play a swing feel with the ride cymbal and hi-hat** while singing the call-and-response melodies. See the inside front cover for *Drum Tips for Playing Swing Feel*.

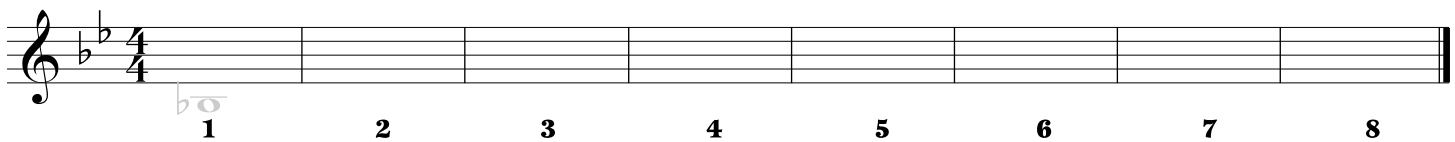
1 SING

Sing the concert B \flat scale, watching your teacher's conducting cues to change to each new note. Your teacher will use the hand signs below. As you sing, say the scale numbers, "One–Two–Three," and so on.



2 TRANSCRIBE

Using whole notes, **transcribe** (write down) the concert B \flat scale you just sang.



3 PRACTICE

Follow your teacher's hand signs and **sing** Exercises A and B below. Once again, say the scale numbers as you sing.

(A)



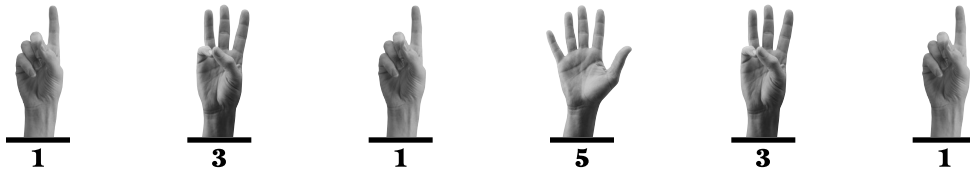
(B)



4 IMPROVISE

When you speak, you **improvise** (create) each new sentence in a conversation. The **timbre** (sound) of your voice also tells others how you feel. It is the same with music! When you improvise a musical phrase or conversation, you express many different feelings, such as happiness, loneliness, eagerness, sadness, etc.

A Follow your teacher's hand signs and sing this musical phrase with an *excited* feeling. Begin on B \flat .

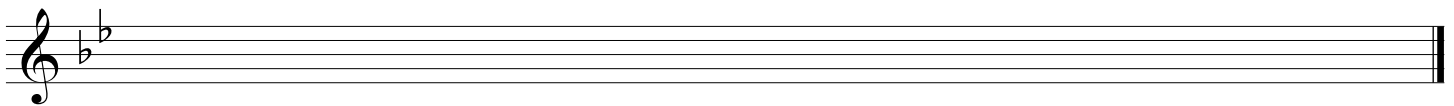


B Now follow your teacher closely to **improvise** (create) an ending to the musical sentence.

Improvise!

5 RECOGNIZE

Monster musicians work hard to develop "monster ears" by transcribing what they improvise, or transcribing what other musicians sing or play. **Transcribe** the ending you improvised in Line B above. Don't worry about writing the rhythms and bar lines for now; just use whole notes.



CHOP-MONSTER CHALLENGE 1

A **Improvise** your own song! Use the scale notes 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 in any combination. Remember to communicate your music with a specific feeling, such as happy, sad, intense, or relaxed.

B **Transcribe** your song below.

