

LET'S SING SOME JAZZ!

A Teaching/Performance Piece for Jazz and Improvisation

Words and Music by RUSS ROBINSON

LEARNING/PERFORMANCE NOTES

“Let’s Sing Some Jazz!” is designed to be a teaching/performance piece for students and teachers to become comfortable with jazz style and improvisation. I have used this piece for singers from the ages of ten to eighty, and students, teachers, and audiences love it!

Here’s the idea: You tell the audience through song what you are going to do in the first verse. Then you start call-and-response with soloist(s) and the group answering back. Then you call-and-response with scat syllables with soloist(s) and group answering back. This can be repeated with other call-and-response patterns and motives. The following are some ideas for measure 29, but I strongly suggest that you make up your own.

29

Doo ba doo ba doo bop Bop bop shoo bop Doo ba doo ba twee bop

Doo ba doo ba Ba ba do ba doo bop

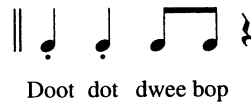
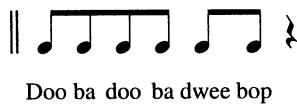
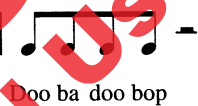
The musical notation for measure 29 is presented in two staves. The first staff contains three phrases of call-and-response, each separated by a double bar line with repeat dots. The second staff contains two phrases of call-and-response, also separated by a double bar line with repeat dots. The notes are written in a simple, accessible style, using a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The lyrics are written below the notes, corresponding to the syllables in the music.

Measures 41 to 52 may be repeated with individual jazz improvisation solos. The background parts that are written may be sung as you wish, perhaps every other time. Feel free to use other syllables and rhythms for the background parts in this section. Also, try “trading fours” where a person sings four bars, then the next person takes four and tries to “play off” of the previous four. Or call-and-response four measures at a time.

Feel free to “make your own arrangement” with this piece. Then end the piece from measure 54 to the end. Also, I suggest you use bass guitar or double bass and drum set. The bass can play the piano part (left hand) in the appropriate octave and the drums can play an easy shuffle beat.

The following are some suggestions to help you with teaching and learning solo improvisation and jazz style:

1. Anyone can improvise!
2. Establish a comfortable vocabulary of syllables, scales, and riffs (short melodic phrases or motives).
3. Upbeats are short when they are last or alone.
4. The last note in a phrase is usually short.
5. Downbeats are long when followed by upbeats.
6. Start simple with just the first note of the scale of the chord using different rhythms. Example: F, B-flat, C.
7. Then, use the first three notes of the scale of the chord. Example: F, G, A for the F chord; B-flat, C, D for the B-flat chord; and C, D, E for the C chord.
8. Then, try the pentatonic scale for each chord. Example: F, G, A, C, D for the F chord and so on.
9. Examples of scat syllables:
Short: Dot, Bop, Doot, Dip, Beep
Long: Doo, Ba, Dwee, Shoo, Zee, Da
10. Practice Phrases:



Have Fun and Enjoy!!!

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SATB, accompanied with optional rhythm section

By RUSS ROBINSON

Swing ♩ = 132 (♩ = $\frac{3}{4}$ ♩)

S
A

T
B

unison *mf*

We're gon-na

unison *mf*

PIANO
ad lib.

mf

C7 Bb7 F7 C7

5

sing some jazz, - just for you. We're gon-na show you how - to scat it too, a lit-tle

5 F7

Doo bop bop, Doo ba doo bop, and then a Shoo bop bop, Shoo ba doo bop.

Bb7 F7

Here we go — let's sing some more _ of that jazz just for you! First

Solo: Guy or Girl
f *mf*

C7 Bb7 F7 C7

17 Group Solo Group

some-one sings, _ first some-one sings _ and they an-swer back and they

17 F7

mf

Solo *Group* *Solo*

an-swer back. Then they sing some more, then they sing some more and then they

Bb7

Group *Solo* *Group*

sing it back and then they sing it back. Be - fore you know, - be -

F7 C7

Solo *Group*

fore you know - we're sing - in' jazz, - we're sing - in' jazz. -

Bb7 F7 C7

29 *Solo* *Group* *Solo* *Group*

Doo ba doo bop Doo ba doo bop Doo ba doo bop Doo ba doo bop

29 F7

Solo *Group* *Solo* *Group*

Shoo bop bop Shoo bop bop Dwee ba doo bop Dwee ba doo bop

Bb7 F7

Solo *Group* *Solo* *Group*

Shoo ba doo ba — Shoo ba doo ba — Doo ba doo bop Doo ba doo bop

Repeat with ad lib.
"call and response"

C7 Bb7 F7 C7

[41] *Optional background vocals for "Scat" soloist(s)*

mp

Doo bop Doo bop Dwee bop

mp

[41] F7

Bb7

mp

Doo bop Shoo bop Dwee bop

F7

C7

Bb7

*Repeat ad lib.
for "scat" solos.*

last time

f

[54]

Doo bop We've sung some jazz _

f

*Repeat ad lib.
for "scat" solos*

last time

[54] F7

f

just for you and we have shown you how _ to scat it too. A lit-tle Doo bop bop

Bb7

Doo ba doo bop and then a Shoo bop bop Shoo ba doo bop. We're gon-na go _ 'cause

F7 C7

now you know how to Doo ba bop bop Doo ba doo ba _ Yeah!

ff

Bb7 F9

ff

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