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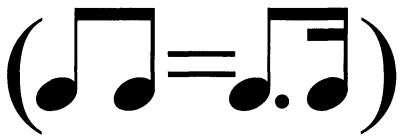
Works are arranged in order of approximate difficulty

Editor's Note

A First Book of Jazz is specially designed to bring the joys of America's premier art form to beginning pianists. These carefully selected and arranged works are designed to develop both fingers and ears, as well as introduce the most memorable hits of the genre. Many of the works focus on specific skills: e.g. extended melodies in *Indiana,* and waltz syncopations in *Bethena*. Fingerings have been provided as suggestions and should not be taken too literally, as each individual will understand what works best for them. Phrasings and pedals have been left open to keep the works less daunting. These can be applied as personal progress is achieved.

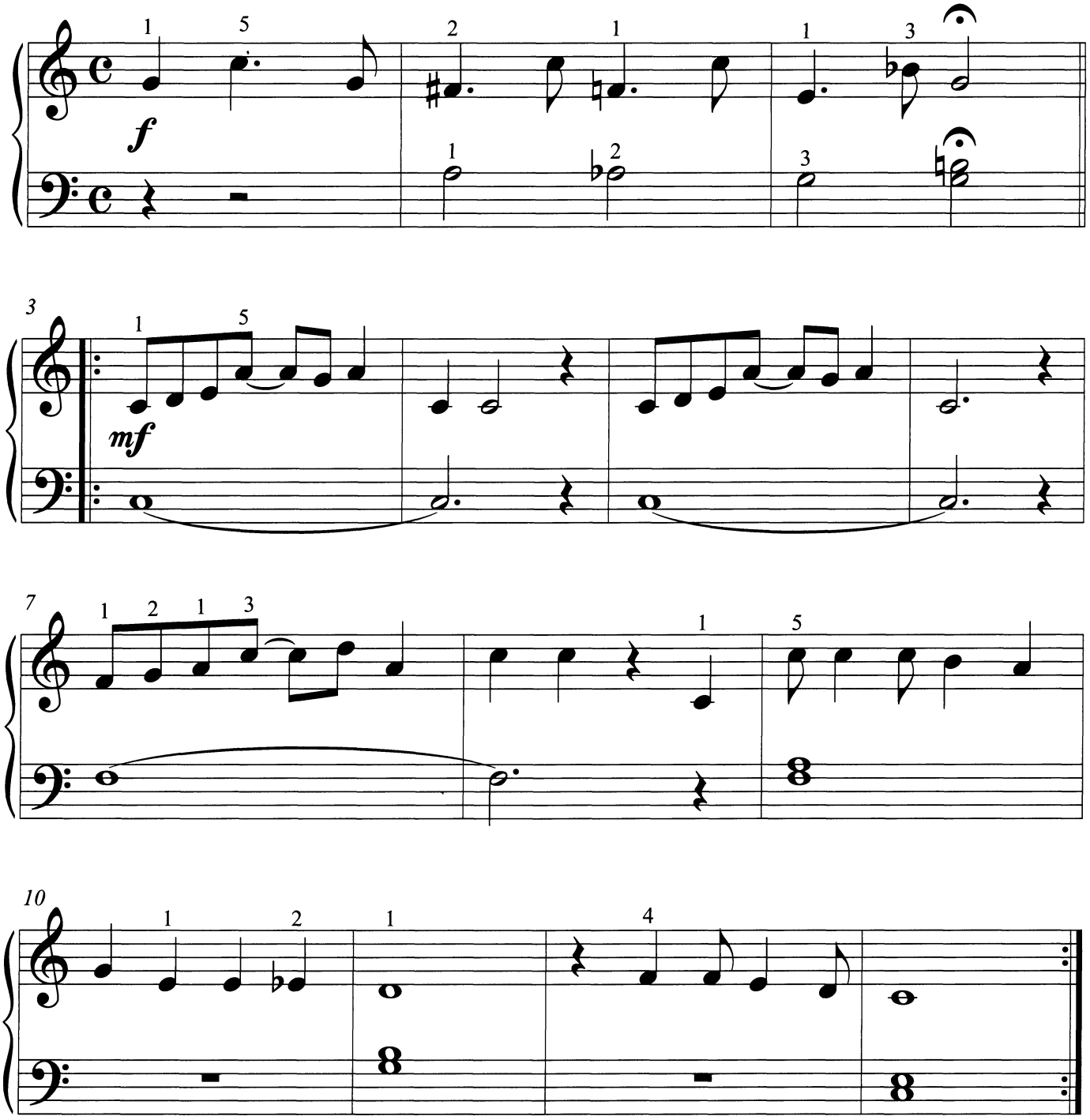
When playing jazz, the element of interpretation is key. What is often written on the page rhythmically is not what is performed. One of the basic rules is to add "swing" to melodies: this means that a series of eighth notes are not played straight and even. Rather, they're paired into groups of two, with a delay on the attack of the second note. It's simplest to think of two eighth notes as a dotted eighth plus a sixteenth:



In more advanced performance, the eighths are performed as triplets with the first note lasting $\frac{2}{3}$ of a beat, and the second note filling the remaining $\frac{1}{3}$.

Frankie and Johnny

Traditional

This traditional jazz standard tells the story of a love gone sour between two sweethearts. There are over 250 recordings, with artists ranging from Duke Ellington to Benny Goodman, Elvis Presley, Stevie Wonder, and Lindsay Lohan. Keep the melody playful, and once the right-hand is comfortable add some swing to the eighth notes.

Slow Blues Tempo