

INTRODUCTION

Not all accomplished players have super chops. Many musicians, from students to professional performers and educators, find that their daily (weekly, etc.) playing schedule does not provide them the necessary playing time required to improve their performance level, or maintain the status quo. Musicians in this situation must find time to *practice*. Practicing can be fun, but for those times when you really don't feel like practicing but you know you need the "face time"—call a friend, play some duets, and have some fun.

My hope is that this material will help you improve your reading skills, help develop your jazz concept, and expand your jazz vocabulary. Having used them in lessons, I think these pieces will also prove beneficial in rhythm and interval recognition, chord/scale relationships, phrasing, articulation, breath control, endurance, flexibility, facility, and improvisational skills.

This collection comes with a CD of sampled play-along tracks (piano/bass/drums) in Mp3 format. This CD will allow you to hear "the band" while playing the pieces. The recorded tracks also offer multiple choruses (except for the last 12 duets, which only have one chorus), giving the players an opportunity to work on improvisational skills while negotiating chord changes.

These pieces were originally written for B \flat trumpet. The C, E \flat and Bass Clef editions are offered so instruments in different keys can play them together. This also gives educators the potential for use in a classroom setting with a larger group. They will present some different technical challenges for E \flat saxophones (occasional altissimo register) and trombone (slide facility with 16th notes). Dig in and make it work.

I hope these etudes and duets will be challenging, educational, musically stimulating, and just plain fun for everyone involved. Enjoy!