

Playing in Style



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Four Basic & Essential Musical Genres in “Jazz”

Here are 4 general categories of “**Genres/Styles**” rhythm sections must identify and execute

- **Swing** – Dixieland, Swing, Be-Bop & Beyond
- **Brazilian** – Bossa Nova, Samba, Baiao and more.
- **Afro-Cuban** – Cha Cha, Mambo, Salsa, Songo and more.
- **Rock** - Funk, R & B & other popular music genres

The written parts for the rhythm section should be viewed as a guide. They should not be read literally like concert band music. While the written piano, bass, drum set and guitar parts are certainly helpful (especially for young bands) the “thing” that makes rhythm sections truly groove is their creative responses to each other, the band and the soloists. In other words, the elements of music you can’t notate because it’s improvised and spontaneous. Of course there are written parts that must be adhered to within the ensemble, but encourage your students to use their ears, emotions and creativity as equal and crucial elements to play with style.

What is Everyone Supposed to Do?

- Identify and Establish the Groove (time, feel, tempo, phrasing) and Style
- Support and respond to the soloist
- Spontaneously create inspired and responsive musical magic with section mates

A. The Drummer

- Shared duty with the bass player as the primary time keeper
- Controls the dynamics of the band
- Kick the band (set up figures) and “driver of the bus”

B. The Bass Player

- Shared duty with the drummer as the primary time keeper
- Outline the harmony
- Creator of the time “cushion” for the band to ride

C. The Pianist

- Outline the harmony by creating rhythmically supportive accompaniment (“Spark”) for the band (comping)
- Support and respond to the soloist (comping)

D. The Guitarist

- Outline the harmony by creating rhythmically supportive accompaniment (“Spark”) for the band (comping)
- Support and respond to the soloist (comping)
- Help lock-in the “time” between the bass and drums

1. Swing:

There are *many* variations and feels within "Swing."

Drum Set: Basic 2 Feel and 4 Feel

Ride Cymbal
Snare Drum
Feathered Bass Drum
Hi-Hat w/ Foot


- **TIP:** Snare drum and tom-tom comping patterns should be responsive to the music and not on "auto-pilot" unless playing in a style that requires a specific pattern, like a shuffle.
- **Syncopation** by Ted Reed is an excellent book to practice comping patterns over a steady basic groove. Here is a **FREE** PDF:
<http://student.drumschooltwaterand.nl/drumschool/clemenskerssies/2015-2016/Ted%20Reed%20-%20Progressive%20Steps%20To%20Syncopation.pdf>

2. Brazilian: Bossa Nova.

There are *many* more grooves in this genre.

Drum Set Bossa Nova

Ride Cymbal
Snare Click
Feathered Bass Drum
Hi-Hat w/ Foot

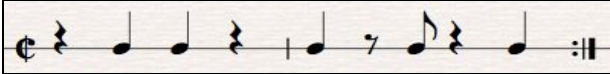
- **TIP:** While there is a traditional Bossa Nova click pattern, any rim-click combination of downbeats and upbeats will create an exciting percussive drive for this groove. You can also substitute any click with a tom or snare sound. The clicks should be responsive to the music.
- **NOTE:** There is no CLAVE in Brazilian music.
- **Syncopation** by Ted Reed is an excellent book to practice "click" patterns over a steady Bossa Nova groove.
- **Brazilian Rhythms for Drumset** by Duduka Da Fonseca and Bob Weiner is an in-depth study of multiple grooves within the genre. <https://www.alfred.com/brazilian-rhythms-for-drumset/p/00-MMBK0009CD/>
- **NOTE:** A Samba is another common groove within this genre. An effective Samba groove can be created by playing the Bossa Nova, but changing the ride pattern to  to accommodate the often faster tempo.

3. Afro-Cuban: Mambo:

There are *many* more grooves in this genre.

Drum Set Mambo

Ride Cymbal
High Tom
Snare Click
Floor Tom
Feathered Bass Drum
Hi-Hat w/ Foot

- **NOTE:** The **CLAVE** (s) is the heart of Afro-Cuban music. Further study is necessary.
- This is a **2-3 Son Clave**: 
- **Afro-Cuban Rhythms for Drumset** by Frank Malabe and Bob Weiner is an in-depth study of multiple grooves within the genre. <https://www.alfred.com/afro-cuban-rhythms-for-drumset/p/00-MMBK0001CD/>

4. Rock & Funk:

There are *many* variations and feels in these genres.

Drum Set Basic Rock

Ride Cymbal
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Hi-Hat w/ Foot



Drum Set Basic Funk

Closed Hi-Hat
Snare Drum
Bass Drum



- **Advanced Funk Studies** by Rick Latham is highly recommended: <https://www.ricklatham.com/afs.htm>
- Here is a **FREE** PDF: [http://student.drumschooltwenterand.nl/harmonie/markberkhof/2015-2016/Advanced-Funk-Studies-\(Rick-Latham\).pdf](http://student.drumschooltwenterand.nl/harmonie/markberkhof/2015-2016/Advanced-Funk-Studies-(Rick-Latham).pdf)
- **Realistic Rock** by Carmie Appice is a classic: <https://www.amazon.com/Ultimate-Realistic-Rock-Book-CDs/dp/0897244869>
- Here is a **FREE** PDF: <https://www.slideshare.net/YOSED/carmine-appice-realistic-rock-drum>

Recommended Resources for Further Study:

Drums

- **Groove Essentials** by Tommy Igoe is a comprehensive book covering a wide-range of styles and grooves. It also comes with play-a-long tracks with charts.
- You can get a **FREE** copy of the **Groove Essentials** poster here: <https://vicfirth.zildjian.com/education/groove-essentials.html>

Bass

- **Big Band Bass** by John Clayton, <https://www.ejazzlines.com/big-band-bass-john-clayton>
- **Bass Lessons** with Christian McBride: <https://www.openstudionetwork.com/project/fjb-overview/>

Piano

- **Jazz Keyboard Harmony** by Phil DeGreg: <http://jazzbooks.com/jazz/product/JKH>
- **FREE** online: <https://docslide.us/documents/phil-de-greg-jazz-keyboard-harmony-aegersoldpdf.html>

Guitar

- **FREE Beginner's Guide to Jazz Guitar** PDF: http://www.jazzguitar.be/ebooks/The_Beginners_Guide_To_Jazz_Guitar.pdf

All About Jazz

- **FREE Jazz Handbook** by Jamey Aebersold PDF: <https://www.jazzbooks.com/mm5/download/FQBK-handbook.pdf>
- **FREE: Jazz at Lincoln Center Lessons:** <https://academy.jazz.org/>