

## UNIT TOPIC: ARTICULATION

### NOTES FOR THE DIRECTOR:

The four main articulations in jazz music are Doo, Dah, Dit, and Daht.

Sing, sing, and sing some more! Students will be hesitant at first, but singing regularly has great benefits.

“If you can’t sing it, you can’t play it.” – Wycliffe Jordan

For this activity just focus on making the articulation syllables match and don’t stress about matching pitch. The more they sing the more comfortable they will become.

Sing phrases with articulation syllables before playing.

If articulations aren’t matching, go back and sing again.

Eighth notes can be longer than a quarter notes depending on the articulation.

### RULES FOR SWING ARTICULATION:

- Any quarter note or eighth note followed by a rest is played short. If quarter notes or eighth notes are not followed by a rest, they are played long unless the following rules apply:
- Quarter notes that occur on the downbeats of 1 or 3 are played long.
- Quarter notes that occur on the downbeats of 2 and 4 are usually played short.
- Quarter notes that occur on an upbeat between two eighth notes are played short.
- A succession of quarter notes on consecutive upbeats is usually played long.
- Two eighth notes followed by a rest are articulated with the syllables Doo-Daht.

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- In a line of eighth notes, accent the highest note.
- Triplet eighth notes are usually articulated by slurring the first two and tonguing the last one.
- Any note longer than a dotted quarter note moves dynamically up or down and is played long
- Dynamics in a line of eighth notes usually follow the direction of the line.
- All three notes of a quarter-note triplet are played long.
- Above all – listen to great recordings and copy what they do!

### **MORE RESOURCES ON JAZZ ARTICULATION:**

Chapman, Caleb, Coffin, Jeff: *The Articulate Jazz Musician: Mastering the Language of Jazz*, Alfred Music.

Dunscumb, Richard; Hill, Willie: *Jazz Pedagogy: The Jazz Educator's Handbook and Resource Guide*, Warner Bros. Publications.

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### **MATERIALS:**

Articulation Activity Packet

### **LESSON OBJECTIVES:**

The Students will sing rhythms with appropriate jazz syllables

The Students will play rhythms with appropriate jazz syllables

The Students will apply knowledge of jazz syllables to common jazz rhythms

### **PROCEDURES:**

Discuss the four jazz articulations, Doo, Dah, Dit, and Daht

Students will sing the first measure

Students will play the first measure

Students will sing the second measure

Students will play the second measure

Continue singing and playing through the first six measures

Students will apply knowledge of jazz articulation syllables to measures 7-14

Students will sing the Concert F scale focusing on articulation syllables (The teacher should provide starting pitch)

Students will play the Concert F scale using the Doo-Dah articulation pattern

Students will apply knowledge of swing articulations to play the Concert Bb and Concert Eb scales using the Doo-Dah articulation pattern

### **EXTENSION:**

Sing and play any rhythm found in the ensemble music.

Perform all Major, Dominant, and Dorian scales with swing articulations.