

How to Use That's Jazz

- ◆ Although this book has been designed so that the songs can be studied in any order, serious jazz students should read and play through it sequentially. Together with the *Warm Up* and *Going Further* pages, each tune includes a methodical lesson process designed to move you deeper into the world of jazz. For this reason, master each lesson one at a time using the steps described below.
- ◆ Piano teachers searching for jazz music for study or recital will find a treasure trove of resources here. Select tunes as supplemental music to traditional piano methods either individually or successively. The *Warm Up* pages provide you with helpful lesson plans.
- ◆ At its most basic, this book is a collection of jazz tunes for performance. The tunes are organized by increasing difficulty so that it's easy for pianists to find selections to match their piano skills.

1. Warm Up Pages

Begin learning a new tune by reading and playing the examples on the *Warm Up* page. Step-by-step instructions, tips on how to play challenging passages and specific exercises are all included here. Read and play this page at the piano to gain a hands-on understanding of specific elements of the jazz style. When the *Warm Up* page is thoroughly understood and experienced at the piano, it's time to move on to the tune.

2. The Tunes

CD Demonstration Tracks—Listening to jazz is the best way to develop style. Listen to the demonstration tracks on the enclosed CD to get an idea of how each tune should sound. If your CD player has a left-right balance control, you can listen to each tune in three different ways: 1) Leave the balance control in the center to hear both the solo and duet parts; 2) Adjust the balance control so only the right channel is playing to hear the solo part only; 3) Adjust the balance control so only the left channel is playing to hear the duet part only.

Practice Suggestions—Begin by practicing each hand individually at a slow tempo. Increasing the tempo will come more easily when the individual parts are secure.

Enhanced Repeats—Jazz musicians often spontaneously enhance melodies by improvising variations. The written arrangements in this book emulate this practice. Therefore, look for differences such as altered rhythms or embellishments whenever a melody repeats near the end of a tune.

Duet Parts—Each tune in this book has an optional duet part. Although the solo parts are designed to sound complete without them, the duet parts enhance the tunes, making lessons or playing with friends more interesting and fun. Switching parts is a great way to better understand how the parts work together.

Steady Beat—The jazz tradition is steeped in rhythm. In jazz, maintaining an even pulse is far more important than playing all the right notes, so it's a good idea to practice with a metronome or drum machine accompaniment.

Chord Symbols—Jazz musicians often play from lead sheets that include only a written melody and chord symbols. Chord symbols are introduced in this collection to facilitate improvisation and harmonic analysis even though the chords are written out. See the Chord Glossary on page 47 for a list of chord symbols and their related chords.

3. Going Further Pages

Advanced jazz skills, improvisation challenges and suggestions as to how to personalize the tunes are all included on the *Going Further* pages. Take risks while exploring these concepts and avoid self-judgment since, at this stage, results are less important than the process of discovery.