

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

Jazz Ensemble Method

FOR GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL INSTRUCTION




BY DEAN SORENSON & BRUCE PEARSON

Dear Student:

Welcome to the STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE JAZZ ENSEMBLE METHOD. The jazz tradition is rich and varied, calling many styles of music its own. This book will provide you with an introduction to understanding, enjoying, and performing this exciting music.

The book is divided into three sections, each representing a different jazz style: **Rock**, **Swing**, and **Latin**. The three sections are color-coded:

- ◆ The **Rock** section is indicated by  tabs and graphics.
- ◆ The **Swing** section is indicated by  tabs and graphics.
- ◆ The **Latin** section is indicated by  tabs and graphics.

Each section contains FOR PIANO ONLY exercises (indicated by  graphics) that introduce you to basic elements idiomatic to playing in each style, and help you develop your overall jazz playing skills. Wherever you see  above an exercise, play along with the accompaniment recordings in the **INTERACTIVE Practice Studio**. Go to the **IPS** and tap the  next to the printed music. Further information about the **INTERACTIVE Practice Studio** is included on the facing page.

Each section of the book also contains RHYTHM STUDIES and IMPROVISATION STUDIES. On RHYTHM STUDIES, play the Accompaniment Groove along with the rest of the rhythm section to accompany the ensemble, or sing and play the RHYTHM STUDIES in unison with the ensemble as shown on pages 48-60. IMPROVISATION STUDIES may be played with other members of the jazz ensemble, or with the accompaniment recordings.

Compositions, or **charts**, that apply what you learn in the FOR PIANO ONLY exercises, RHYTHM STUDIES, and IMPROVISATION STUDIES are also included. They are designed to be played with the full jazz ensemble. Recordings of the charts are also included in the **IPS**.

Using this method requires that you possess basic piano skills. If playing piano is relatively new to you, or if you need to brush up on your reading skills, we recommend you review **KEYBOARD FUNDAMENTALS** and **KEYBOARD SESSIONS Book 1**, by Phil Kadidlo. See page 61 for more information.

Best wishes in all your musical endeavors,



Dean Sorenson



Bruce Pearson

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