Basic Jazz Concepts

- General rules of articulation
- The “swing” concept
- Dynamics & Phrasing
- Nuances
- Listening
Points to Remember

- Always play with a legato connected sound whenever possible.
- Impose a slight tenuto on the eighth notes that fall on the downbeat to lengthen the note in a series of eighth-notes.
- Articulate more of the up beats than down beats in a series of eighth-notes.
- Vary your articulations as much as you like, to create your own identity.
Swing

• Articulation vs. rhythm
• Tempo/style of the composition (e.g., ballad, shuffle, straight-ahead) and swing
• Using syllables: doo-bah, doo-dot
• The count-off to establish style
Dynamics & Phrasing

- Notes longer than a quarter-note
- Balance: unisons vs. tutti
- Rise and fall of the melodic line
- Accentuating the change in direction within a line
- Slur markings are often phrase markings
Select Jazz Nuances

- Vibrato
- Bends
- Growls
- Falls
Listening

• Listen often

• Listen actively to all aspects of the music and the inflections used

• Dissect the music, in layers (texture, instrumentation, isolate certain instruments, examine articulations and nuances used)

• Play recordings in rehearsals
• See p. 75 in Jazz Ped Text
• Reading example: So What by Miles Davis