

Jazz Combo: Origins

- Sometimes most neglected
- Big band is keeper of tradition, combo is jazz's lifeline
- Most historic innovations have occurred in combo

Jazz Combo: Instrumentation

- Combo is 2 to 10 musicians
- Some instrumentations: (1 or 2) sax, trpt, or trombone, plus rhythm section
- Trios, Quartets, Quintets, Sextets, and Septets

The Jazz Combo: An Approach

- Improvisation is key
- Variety of tunes
- Stretch out
- Different tempos and styles
- Forms and time keeping is important for all
- 100% concentration
- Vary solo order
- Experiment!

Jazz Combo: Tunes

- Bebop, usually unison, and in “real” books
- Standards: 1 horn play A section, other horn plays B section; unison; simple harmony
- Transcribe off recordings
- Play originals
- Publishers: Second Floor Music; The New Real Books (Chuck Sher); Jamey Aebersold

Jazz Combo: Final Thoughts

- Play and know King Oliver to Ornette
- Play bebop or standards in different settings
- Keep stylistically faithful
- Listen, listen, listen!
- Be sensitive to each other
- Memorize