

How to Approach Jazz Ballad Playing?

1. MELODY

- Learn the melody, enjoy it, don't start off adding anything extra.
- Pay attention to the slower tempo - internalize it.
- If the tune has lyrics, learn them!

2. DON'T APPROACH IT THE SAME WAY YOU WOULD OTHER STYLES

- Build musical lines from the melody.
- is it melodic, tasteful, does it ADD to the melody?
- Embellishments should be informed by and support the melody.

3. S P A C E is A GOOD THING

- You don't need to fill up every empty space by play a million notes.
- Allow time for your musical phrases to settle/breath.
- Develop ideas organically.

4. SUBDIVIDE OVER THE CHORUSES

- Experiment playing solos choruses with only
 - Quarters, 8th notes, triples and 16th notes

5. LISTEN

- As with all music, the answers lie with the masters on the recordings. - **This step is not to be skipped or taken lightly.**
- "Imitation, assimilation, innovation" - Clark Terry

SUGGESTED TUNES:

BODY AND SOUL
DARN THAT DREAM
MISTY
LAMENT
POLKA DOTS AND MOONBEAMS
BLUE IN GREEN
PERLUDE TO A KISS
IN A SENTIMENTAL MOOD
SKYLARK
WHEN I FALL IN LOVE