

Vocal Jazz – Reading & Rehearsing

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www.acdapa.org/new/rs/jazz

ACDA-PA Summer Conference

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State College, PA

More I Cannot Wish You (from “Guys and Dolls”)

Words & Music by Frank Loesser; arr. Phil Mattson

- ❑ Rubato = robbed
- ❑ Text driven
- ❑ Creation of tension and release through tempo, dynamics, phrasing

Old Devil Moon (from “Finnian’s Rainbow”)

Words by E.Y. Harburg, Music by Burton Lane; arr. Paris Rutherford

Latin

- ❑ Straight eighth notes
- ❑ Laid-back feel to keep from rushing

Swing

- ❑ strong beats 2 & 4
- ❑ tied triplets
- ❑ accents – subtlety is the key
- ❑ each note receives length and weight to create a laid-back feel

He Beeped When He Shoulda Bopped

Words & Music by John Dizzy Gillespie; arr. Michele Weir

Swing

Scat chorus

- ❑ speak rhythm
- ❑ speak rhythm with correct syllables
- ❑ add notes slowly
- ❑ notes, correct rhythms and syllables together

Improvisation

- ❑ written out solo examples
- ❑ short 4-bar solo opportunities

Isn’t It Romantic

Words by Lorenz Hart, Music by Richard Rodgers; arr. Steve Zegree

Accompanied Ballad

- ❑ text is key
- ❑ harmony can be focus
- ❑ vocal and piano solo opportunities
- ❑ could be used for larger group to introduce vocal jazz harmonies

Loves Me Like A Rock

Words & Music by Paul Simon; arr. Darmon Meader

Pop tune arranged with jazz harmonies

- ❑ featured soloist
- ❑ bass and drums only accompaniment
- ❑ difficult harmonies
- ❑ pop style familiar to students
- ❑ improvisation opportunity

God Only Knows

Words & Music by Brian Wilson and Mike Love; arr. Tomas Bergquist

Pop tune arranged with jazz harmonies

- ❑ 3-part women
- ❑ tenor solo or section melody
- ❑ bass line is key

I've Got You Under My Skin

Words & Music by Cole Porter; arr. Phil Mattson

Swing

- ❑ rhythmically challenging
- ❑ unison guys and unison women
- ❑ this one really swings!!

Listening examples

Provide students with a listening cd of the charts they will be singing during the year. Give them multiple examples of each tune, rather than just the arrangement you will be singing – ESPECIALLY THE ORIGINAL! They need to know where the arrangement came from. Most vocal jazz is not original composition, but arrangements of jazz standards, show tunes, pop tunes and even classics.

Rhythm Section

- ❑ Piano provides harmonic support. Many parts are written out so can complement vocal parts
- ❑ Bass provides harmonic and rhythmic support. Often times plays the root of the chord (bass voices often times sing the 7th of the chord)
- ❑ Drums provide rhythmic support
- ❑ Other Instruments may be added – saxophone, brass, accessory percussion, etc.