

CONDUCTOR CHECK LIST

A) Pre-performance

Score preparation (road map, problem spots, key/tempo/style changes, dynamics, articulations, shout chorus, solo space, backgrounds, ending, last pause length)

B) Rehearsal time

Voice quality (clear, loud enough)

Logical instructions (not too much, not too little)

Problem spots pointed out (according to your score preparation)

C) Conducting Technique

Count-off explained (I'll give you two bars of 4/4 etc)

Count-off is appropriate (style, tempo, volume)

Beat pattern is clear (tempo, style, dynamic)

Cues are given clearly (cue is prepared and delivered)

Dynamics indicated

Major divisions of piece indicated

Leading or following the time?

D) Rehearsal Technique

Intonation

Attacks/releases

Dynamics

Phrasing

Style

Balance/blend

Rhythmic accuracy

How many stops, how often (too often, not often enough)

Problems pointed out and fixes explained clearly

Pace of the rehearsal

Section playing (especially Rhythm section)

Time (rushing or dragging)

JAZZ ENSEMBLE TECHNIQUES

Introduction

What's in a name?

Development of Fundamentals:

- Sound/intonation
- Time
- Technique/finger speed
- Articulation
- Dynamics
- Range

Instrumental areas:

- Introduction to the rhythm section
- Rhythm Section: Bass/Drums/Piano/Guitar/Auxiliary Percussion
- Saxophones/Doubles
- Trumpet
- Trombone
- Electronics: Amplifiers/P. A. systems/Keyboards

Understanding and teaching the Swing Concept

- The 10 most common problems.

Rehearsal Techniques

- Ensemble setups
- The warm-up routine
- Sectional rehearsals
- Conducting: what, when, where, why, how.

Selecting repertoire

The Performance situation

Ensemble Psychology

Appendices:

- Listing of Publishers
- Jazz education questionnaire
- Festival participation
- The value of clinicians
- Listening to, and transcribing recordings
- Understanding jazz theory and harmony
- Jazz Form
- Video and audio taping your rehearsals, and concerts
- Improvisation
- Music Education in general