

Basics in Jazz Arranging: A Comprehensive Guide for Beginners by Lynn Shiner



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★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Jazz arranging is the art of taking a melody and creating a full-fledged arrangement for a jazz ensemble. It involves selecting the right chords, voicing them appropriately, and orchestrating the different instruments to create a cohesive and balanced sound.

In this article, we'll provide a comprehensive overview of the basics of jazz arranging, covering everything from chord voicings to orchestration. Whether you're a complete beginner or an experienced musician looking to improve your arranging skills, this guide will provide you with the essential knowledge and techniques you need to get started.

Chord Voicings

The first step in jazz arranging is to choose the right chords. The chords you choose will determine the overall sound and feel of your arrangement.

There are many different types of chords that can be used in jazz, but some of the most common include:

- Major chords
- Minor chords
- Dominant chords
- Suspended chords
- Extended chords

Once you've chosen your chords, you need to voice them appropriately. Voicing refers to the way the notes of a chord are arranged. There are many different ways to voice a chord, and the voicing you choose will affect the sound of the chord. Some of the most common voicing techniques include:

- Root position
- First inversion
- Second inversion
- Drop voicings
- Spread voicings

Orchestration

Once you've voiced your chords, you need to orchestrate them for the different instruments in your ensemble. Orchestration is the process of assigning the different parts of the arrangement to the different instruments.

The goal of orchestration is to create a balanced and cohesive sound that supports the melody and complements the other instruments.

When orchestrating for jazz, it's important to consider the following factors:

- The range of each instrument
- The timbre of each instrument
- The articulation of each instrument
- The overall balance of the arrangement

By carefully considering these factors, you can create an orchestration that will bring your arrangement to life.

Other Considerations

In addition to chord voicings and orchestration, there are a number of other considerations that you should keep in mind when arranging jazz. These include:

- The tempo of the arrangement
- The dynamics of the arrangement
- The use of improvisation
- The overall form of the arrangement

By taking all of these factors into account, you can create a jazz arrangement that is both musically satisfying and effective.

Jazz arranging is a complex and challenging art form, but it can also be incredibly rewarding. By following the principles outlined in this article, you can learn the basics of jazz arranging and start creating your own unique arrangements.

If you're looking to learn more about jazz arranging, there are a number of resources available to you. You can find books, articles, and online courses on the subject. You can also attend workshops and seminars led by experienced jazz arrangers.

With a little effort and dedication, you can develop your jazz arranging skills and create your own beautiful and unique arrangements.

About the Author

Lynn Shiner is a jazz pianist, composer, and arranger. He has written over 500 jazz arrangements for a variety of ensembles, including big bands, small groups, and soloists. His arrangements have been performed by some of the world's leading jazz musicians, including Wynton Marsalis, Herbie Hancock, and Chick Corea.

Lynn is also an experienced educator. He has taught jazz arranging at the Berklee College of Music, the New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, and the Juilliard School. He is the author of the book "Basics in Jazz Arranging," which is considered to be one of the most comprehensive and authoritative texts on the subject.

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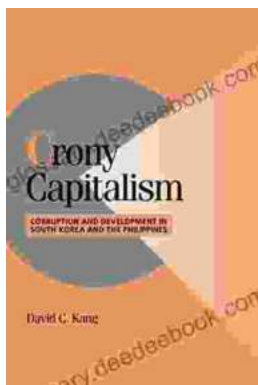


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