

A close-up photograph of a person's arm and hand. The person is wearing a dark-colored band uniform with a visible logo on the sleeve. A tattoo of a bird is visible on the upper arm. The hand is holding a small, dark object, possibly a piece of equipment or a small instrument. The background is dark and out of focus.

INTENTIONAL LISTENING



Rick Fowler – Director of Bands

FMEA January 2026

TCC 111, Friday January 16th, 3:10pm



WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW

Name of Song

Structure/Style of the Song

Band Members/Instrumentation

Rhythm Section

What stands out

How does it make you feel

INTRODUCTION

Intentional Listening, as it relates to Big Band Jazz, can be a rich and rewarding experience. Big Band is well suited for intentional listening due to the complex interplay between sections, tight cohesion of the rhythm section and featured improvised solos. Intentional Listening is the practice of giving music undivided attention as a primary activity, not just background noise.



to add photo

PRIMARY GOALS OF INTENTIONAL LISTENING

- Deeper Connection and Appreciation of the music
- Cognitive Workout
- Mindfulness and Relaxation
- Emotional Engagement
- Musical Skill Development
- Structure (*arrangement*)
- Rhythm Section (*engine*)
- Dynamics and Phrasing
- Improvisation

HOW WE CAN IMPROVE OUR LISTENING

CASUAL LISTENER

Listen Openly – don't analyze, just experience!

Feel the Rhythm – tap your foot!

Listen for Solos – recognition after melody is solo section

ANALYTICAL APPROACH

Identify the Head

Understand the Chorus

Follow the Improvisation

Listen for the Return

BE SPECIFIC

What album/song are you listening to?

How is song structured?

Recognize individual sound of player?

Recognize chords? ii-V-I? or I-vi-ii-V-I?

What is rhythm section doing?

What part "gives you energy"?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY INTENTIONAL LISTENING ALBUM

DIZZY IN GREECE - 1957

HEY Pete - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A0S7FnuVtg&list=RD-A0S7FnuVtg&start_radio=1

School Days

Groovin' for Nat -
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9JoTgnlgTII&list=RD9JoTgnlgTII&start_radio=1

Groovin High

State Department Sponsored Tour. Dizzy (John Birks) helped create Be Bop and pioneered Afro Cuban. Started with Cab Calloway, spitball incident(?) Went on to play with Woody Herman Ella Fitzgerald, Chick Webb and Earl Hines (met parker). Trumpet was bent in 1953 at a party for his wife, he liked the sound, went next day to shop to have one made the same way. Was "Ambassador of Jazz".

SPECIFIC ARTISTS

Lee Morgan – Trumpet

Quincy Jones – Trumpet

Phil Woods – Alto

Ernie Wilkins – Tenor

Paul West – Bass

Charlie Persip - Drum

NOT SURE WHERE TO START ON YOUR JOURNEY?

PHIL COLLINS - *ONE HOT NIGHT IN PARIS*

Sussudio -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=atBhG9_xZ28&list=RDatBhG9_xZ28&start_radio=1

Against All Odds

Invisible Touch

- Gerald Albright – Sax

- Harry Kim – Trpt

- Phil Collins - Drums

PAUL ANKA - *ROCK SWINGS*

It's My Life (bon jovi) -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnChXpU1n2Q&list=RDxnChXpU1n2Q&start_radio=1

Jump (van halen)

- Mike Valerio – Bass

- Andy Martin – Trombone

- Paul Anka – Vocals (*My Way, Lonely Boy, She's a Lady*)

HARRY CONNICK JR. - *SONGS I HEARD*

Spoonful of Sugar -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5H86uFQuBA&list=RDp5H86uFQuBA&start_radio=1

Oompa Loompah -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=19InoS7Da3Y&list=RD19InoS7Da3Y&start_radio=1

Do Re Mi

- Dan Miller/Roger Ingram – Trpt

- Branford Marsalis – Sax

- Neil Caine – Bass

BIG BAND ARTISTS TO LISTEN TO

DUKE ELLINGTON

Ellington's orchestra produced a vast and diverse discography of highly sophisticated music. He elevated jazz to concert hall status, and his compositions are ideal for focused study.

- *Ellington at Newport*
- *Far East Suite*
- *Jazz Party*

COUNT BASIE

Known for his powerful, swinging rhythm section, the Basie band focused on tight ensemble playing that provides a masterclass in jazz feel.

- *Live at Newport*
- *Chairman of the Board*
- *Basie Straight Ahead*

BIG BAND ARTISTS TO LISTEN TO (PART 2)

THAD JONES/MEL LEWIS ORCHESTRA

For a post-swing era, modern big band sound, explore their work!

- *Live at Village Vanguard*
- *Consummation*
- *Monday Night at the Village Vanguard*

BUDDY RICH

Experience high-energy, virtuosic drumming and incredibly tight ensemble playing.

- *Swingin' New band*
- *Plays and Plays and Plays*
- *Roar of '74*

SOME ALBUMS TO SELECT FROM

1950-1970

Ellington at Newport

Live at Newport (Basie)

Live at Newport (Gillespie)

A Message from Newport
(Ferguson)

First Time! Count Meets Duke

My Kind of Broadway (Herman)

Live at Village Vanguard
(Lewis/Jones)

1970-1990

Live at Redlands (Kenton)

Long Yellow Road
(Tabackin/Akiyoshi)

Conquistador (Ferguson)

Burnin' (Menza)

Incredible Journey (Mintzer)

Plays and Plays and Plays (Rich)

1990-TODAY

Slightly off the Ground (Kubis)

A Hot Night in Paris (Phil Collins)

Come By Me (Connick, Jr)

The Good Feeling (McBride)

Primetime (Baylock)

Dear Diz (Sandoval)

Life in the Bubble (Goodwin)

SUMMARY

To improve in jazz, we must intentionally listen to jazz! Listen out for timbre, melody and rhythm. It is the practice of giving music your full, undivided attention, as a primary activity. Start small to learn big!



ATTENDANCE QR CODE/LINK:

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