

BASICS of SAXOPHONE PERFORMANCE

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HISTORY of the SAXOPHONE

- Origin and purpose
- Place in the music of yesterday and today
- Future
- Family

INSTRUMENT

- Choice of alto, tenor, soprano, baritone
- Choice of make
- Ranges
- Maintenance
 - Pad seating
 - Spring tension
 - Adjustment
 - Cork on neck

MOUTHPIECE

- Types
- Facings
- Chamber
- Materials
 - Plastic
 - Hard rubber
 - Metal
 - Composite
 - Ligature
 - Clay

REEDS

- Brands
- Strengths
- Thing to look for in a reed
- Matching a reed to a mouthpiece
- Working reeds

TONE PRODUCTION

- Concept of saxophone tone
- Standards of classical, jazz and popular music tone
- Embouchure position
- Correct breathing technique
 - Diaphragm
 - Open throat
 - Focused sound
 - Long tone practice
 - Dynamics
 - Contrast
 - Extremes
 - Control
 - Usage

TONGUE and ARTICULATION

- Placement of the tongue
- How the tongue works
- Starting and stopping your tongue
- Articulation
 - Staccato
 - Legato
 - Slurring
 - Combinations
 - Speed
 - Jazz and popular styles
- Practice technique and exercises

VIBRATO

- Importance of vibrato
- When and where to use
- How to produce and improve your vibrato
- Differences in styles

INTONATION

- Equipment
 - Instrument
 - Mouthpiece
- Embouchure and posture
- How and what to listen for
- Breath support – proper breathing
- Problems with applying dynamic contrast

TECHNIQUE

- Hand position
- Finger action
- Alternate fingerings
- Altissimo register
- Multiphonics

PRACTICE METHODS

- Duration and consistency
- Routine
 - Coker practice schedule
 - How to develop a practice routine
- Material
 - Scales/chords
 - Long tones
 - Method books and recordings
 - Patterns
 - Solo literature – classical and jazz
 - Transcribing solos – jazz (various players)

DOUBLING

- Other saxophones
- Clarinet
- Flute
- Piano
- Drums
- Bass