

Dear Parents and Students,

Jazz is an original American art form. Students have a fun time playing in jazz band, but many times will shy away from trying to play an improvised solo. This is not because they lack the skill on their instrument, but lack the knowledge on how to develop an improvised solo. Most students would love to play an improvised solo if they only knew how to make one up.

There are many materials available to help students learn how to improvise, but many quickly go beyond the knowledge and ability level of the young student. This why I would like to suggest the following play-along book:

Jazz Anyone.....?
Play and Learn, Book 1
by Willie Thomas

The book comes with compact disks that the student can use to become a better jazz musician. This book gives the student the opportunity to listen to professional musicians play short, stylistically correct musical examples and then play those same examples with a rhythm section. The book also develops the student's listening ability by playing unwritten musical examples and then expecting the student musician to play the musical example that they just heard on the CD. At the end of each lesson in the book, there is a jazz duet that the student will play. In the middle of the duet the student will have an opportunity to make up a solo from what they learned in the lesson material.

Currently, I am having many of my private lesson students use this book. These students want spend most of their lesson time playing out of this book because it is fun and they are getting closer to being able to make up their own improvised jazz solo.

I would like all of the students who are going to be in jazz band in 8th grade to purchase this book. I also encourage all other students who are interested in playing jazz to also purchase this excellent teaching tool. To order this book, please fill out the bottom portion of this sheet and return it with a check for \$16. Please make the check payable to: **Lakota Performing Arts (LPA)**. The book order will be made on May 9 to ensure arrival before the summer break.

Please detach and return with a check payable to LPA by May 9

STUDENT NAME _____

INSTRUMENT _____

_____ Please order Jazz Anyone.....?, Book 1 - Play and Learn (\$16)

_____ No, do not order the book for me at this time. (This book will be used in class next year.)