

Summer Improvisation Blast Session 4: Rhythm

A. Vary the type of rhythms you use,

whole note (1 per bar), half-note (2 per bar), half-note triplet (3 per bar), quarter note (4 per bar), quarter-note triplet (6 per bar), eighth note (8 per bar), eighth-note triplet (12 per bar), sixteenth note (16 per bar), sixteenth-note triplet (24 per bar), thirty-second notes (32 per bar)

B. Be conscious of where you begin a phrase, for example try:

- the “and” of beat 1
- beat 2
- the “and” of beat 4
- etc

C. Be conscious of where you end a phrase, for example try:

- the “and” of beat 4
- beat 4
- etc

D. explore syncopation using a rhythm map

- start with a rhythm that you’re comfortable & remove 1 attack
- remove 1 attack from that rhythm and put it somewhere else
- keep a log/ journal of your favorite rhythms
- combine two 1-bar rhythms to form one 2-bar rhythm
- reverse the order of the 1-bar rhythms from the previous step to form a new 2-bar rhythm

Advanced students:

- use 16th notes or 8th note triplets instead of 8th notes
- use 2 bar rhythms instead of 1
- remove 2 or more attacks from a rhythm then add 2 or more elsewhere in bar
- explore anticipations & delayed resolutions
- add accents on 1, 2, or 3 attacks per bar