

FINDING THE MELODY_{SM} – A LISTENER'S COURSE IN JAZZ APPRECIATION

Part One:

Finding the Melody

The art of Jazz includes many different elements, but it almost always includes improvisation.

-Sometimes the improvisation is merely a matter of embellishment or ornamentation of the composition: adding or subtracting a few notes, subtle modification of the rhythm or phrasing of a melodic line. A piano player or guitar player may rearrange the placement of notes in a chord (different voicing).

-Sometimes a soloist may do more than just embellish the melody, but rather, take it and create variations on it, in a manner similar to the way that symphonic composers state a theme and then create variations on that theme.

-At other times, the soloist may state the original theme, and then put it aside, and create new melodies that are completely different.

1. **Pick a Little Talk a Little (The Music Man)**
2. **Everything Happens to Me (Frank Sinatra/Tommy Dorsey) (1940-42)**
3. **Everything Happens to Me (Thelonious Monk) (1964)**
4. **In a Sentimental Mood (Duke Ellington and John Coltrane) (1962)**
5. **I've Got the World on a String (Sarah Vaughan) (1978)**
6. **Sweethearts on Parade (Louis Armstrong) (1930)**

7. **Body and Soul (Billie Holiday/Roy Eldridge) (1940)**
8. **Body and Soul (Benny Goodman/Teddy Wilson) (1935)**
9. **Body and Soul (Coleman Hawkins) (1939)**
10. **Body and Soul (Manhattan Transfer) (1978)**
11. **Ashes on My Pillow (Eddie “Cleanhead” Vinson) (1949)**
12. **Now’s the Time (Charlie Parker) (1945)**
13. **Blues Walk (Clifford Brown/ Max Roach) (1955)**
14. **Eleanor Rigby (Stanley Jordan) (1985)**
15. **For Big Sid (Max Roach) (1966)**
16. **So What (Miles Davis/John Coltrane/Cannonball Adderly/Bill Evans/Paul Chambers) (1959)**
17. **Cake Walking Babies From Home (Louis Armstrong/Sidney Bechet) (1924)**