

Jazz Routes – Malcolm Miles
Improvisation strategies for Trinity Guildhall Jazz Saxophone Exams

Grade 2

- ‘Vintage Steam’: Piano to vamp around 1st bar of piece after the ‘head’ (i.e. a complete performance of the tune)
Alto Sax to improvise using F Mixolydian (F⁷)
Tenor Sax to improvise using G Mixolydian (G⁷)
- ‘A Sleepy Bean’: Piano to repeat bars 15 to 30 after head (i.e. a complete performance of the tune) and end Cm⁷
Alto Sax to improvise using A Aeolian (i.e. scale of C starting on A)
Tenor Sax to improvise using D Aeolian (i.e. scale of F starting on D)

Grade 3

- ‘Hullabaloo’s’: Piano to repeat 1st four bars ad lib. after the ‘head’ (i.e. a complete performance of the tune)
Alto Sax to improvise using A Mixolydian (A⁷)
Tenor Sax to improvise using D Mixolydian (D⁷)

Grade 4

- ‘Transformation’: Piano to vamp around Cm⁷ and B \flat m⁷ ad lib. after the ‘head’ (i.e. a complete performance of the tune)
Alto Sax to improvise using A Phrygian i.e. scale of F major starting on A.
Tenor Sax to improvise using D Phrygian i.e. scale of B \flat major starting on D.
- ‘Are they ever’: Piano to vamp around A \flat ^{maj7#11} and Gm¹¹ (i.e. 1st two chords) ad lib. after the ‘head’ (i.e. a complete performance of the tune).
Alto to improvise on F Lydian (i.e. scale of C starting on F) and E Dorian (i.e. scale of D starting on E)
Tenor to improvise on B \flat Lydian (i.e. scale of F starting on B \flat) and A Dorian (i.e. scale of G starting on A).