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Vocal Jazz: Linda Fahlgren, R & S Chair, offers some ideas

By Linda Fahlgren, R&S Chair for Jazz Choirs

I hope all of you are having a great year so far. Recently I took my Vocal Jazz Ensemble to the Edmonds Jazz Symposium held at Mount Lake Terrace High School. The day was filled with many educational opportunities for students: performance and clinic, vocal master classes, beginning and advanced scat seminars, listening and jam sessions.

Vocal Jazz Listening Form

Artist _____

Song _____

Info about artist _____

1. What style was this song done in? (swing, be-bop, ballad, etc.)
2. What is the form of the song?
3. How many choruses were performed, and how did they differ from each other?
4. What instruments were used?
5. What was the story of the song, and how did it make you feel?
6. How did the artist use dynamics during the solo?
7. Did the artist use any scat syllables? What were some of them?
8. What made this solo exciting? Did the solo have direction?
9. Did the artist use "space" in the course of the solo?
10. Did the soloist utilize any "vocal compressions" during the solo? If so, name them.

We enjoyed *Soundsation* from Edmonds Community College in their noon concert along with the UW Jazz Band. The *Soundsation* students presented the scat singing classes and helped many beginning scat singers to find their way.

The discography listed below is from *Soundsation*. (Thank you Kirk Marcy!) It covers a wide variety of artists and styles in the jazz realm. I encourage you to present listening examples to your students. It will help them gain stylistic concepts, musical knowledge, and a working vocabulary in jazz. Ask them the questions listed in the box to the left to guide their listening. Watch their understanding grow.

It's easy to do, and it's fun! See discography next page:

SOUNDSESSION DISCOGRAPHY

| TYPE OF ARTIST | ARTIST | ALBUM TITLE | LABEL | CATALOG# |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Jazz Guitar/Vocals | George Benson | Standing Together | GRP | GRD-9906 |
| Trumpetist/Vocalist | Jeremy Davenport | Maybe In a Dream | Telarc | CD-83409 |
| Vocals | Manhattan Transfer Swing | Atlantic | | 83012-2 |
| Vocalist | Karen Allvson | Collage | Concord | CCD-4709 |
| Instrumental | Dave Brubeck Qtet | Time Out | Columbia | CK-65122 |
| Instrumental | Joshua Redman Qtet | Spirit of the Moment | Warner Br. | 9-45923-2 |
| Instrumental | Miles Davis | Kind of Blue | Columbia | CK-64935 |
| Vocalist | Cassandra Wilson | Traveling Miles | Blue Note | 7243-852037 |
| Vocalist | Dee Daniels | Let's Talk Business | Capri | 74027-2 |
| Vocalist/Instrumentalist | Diana Krall | All For You | Impulse | IMPD-182 |
| Vocal/Instrumental | Bobby McFerrin & C. Corea | Play | Blue Note | CDP-7954772 |
| Instrumental | Dave Brubeck Quartet | Time Out | Columbia | CK-65122 |
| Instrumental | Gene Harris Quartet | Funky Genes | Concord | CCD-4609 |
| Vocalist | Sarah Vaughn | The Roulette Years | Blue Note | CDP-79483 |
| Vocals | The Real Group | Nothing But the Real Group | Caprice | CAP-21376 |
| Instrumental | Take 6 | Take 6 | Reprise | 9-25670-2 |
| Instrumental | John Coltrane | The Ultimate Blue Trane | Blue Note | CDP-7243 |
| Vocalist | Ella Fitzgerald | The Complete Ella in Berlin | Verve | 314519564-2 |
| Vocalist/Instrumentalist | Harry Connick Jr. | Come By Me | Columbia | CK-69618 |
| Instrumental | Wynton & Ellis Marsalis | Standard Time | Columbia | CK-46143 |
| Vocal/Instrumental | Any Soundsation Album | Ditto | Get Some | Please |
| Vocalist | Mel Torme | Live at the Maissonette | Atlantic | Unknown |
| Vocalist | Joe Williams | Everyday | Atlantic | Unknown |
| Instrumental | Count Basie Orchestra | Prime Time | Pablo | Unknown |
| Vocal/Instrumental | Jon Hendricks & Friends | Freddie Freeloader | Denon | Unknown |
| Instrumental | Brecker Brothers | Out of the Loop | GRP | Unknown |
| Instrumental | Charlie Parker | Complete Verve Recordings | Verve | Unknown |
| Instrumentalist | Michael Brecker | Michael Brecker | Impulse | Unknown |
| Instrumentalist | John Coltrane | Giant Steps | Atlantic | Unknown |
| Instrumental | Dave Grusin | GRP All-Star Big Band Live | GRP | GRD-9740 |
| Vocalist/Instrumentalist | Dave Frishberg | Classics | Concord | CCD-4462 |
| Instrumentalist | All Jarreau | 1965 | Bainbridge | BCD-2037 |
| Vocalist | Mark Murphy | RAH! | Riverside | OICCD-141-2 |
| Vocalist | Bobby McFerrin | Bobby McFerrin | Electra | 960023-2 |
| Vocals | New York Voices | New York Voices | GRP | GRD-9589 |
| Vocals | The Real Group | Nothing But the Real Group | Caprice | CAP-21376 |
| Vocals | Vox One | Chameleon | Primarily Acapella | PAL-9240 |
| Vocals | Lambert, Jendricks, & Ross | Everybody's Boppin' | Columbia | CK-45020 |