The Funky Melon





In contrast to swing music, the eighth notes in funk music are played straight (as long as you are in common time).

The difficulty with funk is knowing which notes to play short, which notes to play long, and which notes to emphasize. This is where articulation becomes the controlling factor.

The same rules for house tops apply as in swing. However, in "The Funky Melon" we begin to see staccato markings as well. Staccato notes are played short and to the point with a "dit" sound and relatively little emphasis. Remember, house tops are tongued, short, and loud with a "da" sound. Let's use measures 13 - 16 as an example of both. Be sure to listen to the demonstration on the CD for comparison.



IMPORTANT: This etude was taken from "Introductory Etudes In Jazz Comprehension", Book 1 in the "Complete Jazz Styles" series. Included in the book are 12 jazz etudes in a variety of styles with a CD providing demonstrations and rhythm section play-alongs for each selection. Visit www.randyhunterjazzetudes.com to download a promotional mp3 copy of both the play-a-long and demo of this etude. This book is available for alto/bari sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone and flute.

Randy Hunter Jazz 104 Victoria Station Woodstock GA 30189 (770)924-7102 randyhunterjazz@mindspring.com