

The Funky Melon

Complete Jazz Styles Promotional copy

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Alto sax
Funk ♩ = 104

The musical score is written for an alto saxophone in a funk style. It consists of 48 measures across 12 staves. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 104 beats per minute. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. Chord symbols are placed above the staff at specific measures: D7 (1), G7 (5), A7 (9), G7 (10), A7 (11), G7 (12), A7 (13), G7 (14), D7 (15), A7 (19), G7 (23), A7 (25), G7 (26), D7 (27), A7 (28), G7 (29), A7 (30), G7 (31), A7 (32), G7 (33), A7 (34), G7 (35), A7 (36), G7 (38), A7 (39), G7 (40), A7 (42), G7 (43), A7 (44), G7 (46), and A7 (47). The piece concludes with a double bar line and the text 'To Coda' at the end of the 16th measure.

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.randyhunterjazz.com to download a promotional mp3 copy of both the play-along and sax demo of this etude. The book is available for alto/bari sax, tenor sax, trumpet, trombone and flute.