

Rhythm Teaching Sheets for Jazz Ensemble

By Jeff Waggoner

Waggoner Music Publishing

I wrote these after using Stephen Melillo's Rhythm Sheets (go to stormworld.com for those and many other great compositions and teaching tools) with my concert band. I've also used Doug Beach's *Swing Rhythms* (Kjos) with my beginning jazz groups. I found that some years my students needed more work on learning to identify common rhythm patterns. They are easy to use in full band rehearsal by simply setting a common pitch for the band to use to play them together. Based on my experience, I wouldn't use more than eight bars or so of new material on any given day. While it may seem that the band is "getting" it, some of the students with poorer rhythm-reading skills will fall back on their strategy of just listening to other band members for rhythm cues when they become overwhelmed. At that point, you're not gaining anything any longer!

I hope these sheets are helpful to you and your band!

Jazz Rhythm Sheet #1

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28

29 30 31 32

Jazz Rhythm Sheet #2

1 2 3 4

5 6 7 8

9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28

29 30 31 32

Jazz Rhythm Sheet #3



A musical score for a jazz rhythm exercise, consisting of 32 numbered measures across eight staves. The score is written in treble clef and 3/4 time. The first four measures are in 3/4 time, and the remaining measures are in 4/4 time. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and dotted notes, often with accents (>) and breath marks (^). Measures 25-28 and 29-32 feature triplet markings (3) over groups of notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 32.