20. Recommended Solo Transcriptions

Transcribing solos is one of the most important ways to learn to improvise and speak the jazz language. Below is a list of solos taken from our recommended tune list in section 19. They are organized by level of difficulty and type of tune (blues, standard, etc…).

**Beginner**

**Blues**

“All Blues,” Miles Davis, *Kind of Blue*  
Miles Davis (tp)

“Bags Groove,” Miles Davis, *Bag’s Groove*  
Miles Davis (tp)

“Blue Trombone,” J.J. Johnson, *The Trombone Master*  
J.J. Johnson (tb)

“Freddie Freeloader,” Miles Davis, *Kind of Blue*  
Miles Davis (tp) and Wynton Kelly (p)

“Jaybone,” Milt Jackson, J.J. Johnson, and Ray Brown; *Jackson, Johnson, Brown, and Company*  
J.J. Johnson (tb)

“Splanky,” Count Basie, *The Complete Atomic Basie*  
Eddie “Lockjaw” Davis (ts), Count Basie (p), and the shout chorus (whole band)

“Straight, No Chaser,” Miles Davis, *Milestones*  
Miles Davis (tp)

**Standards**

“Doxy,” Miles Davis, *Bags’ Groove*  
Miles Davis (tp)

“So What,” Miles Davis, *Kind of Blue*  
Miles Davis (tp)

“Summertime,” Mils Davis, *Porgy and Bess*  
Miles Davis (tp)

**Latin/Straight Eighth**

“Watermelon Man,” Herbie Hancock, *Takin’ Off*  
Dexter Gordon (ts)

All solos
Intermediate I

**Blues**

“Blues in the Closet,” Stanley Turrentine, *Blue Hour with the Three Sounds*
  Stanley Turrentine (ts)

“Cool Blues,” Grant Green, *Born to be Blue*
  Grant Green (g)

“Showcase,” Carl Fontana, *The Great Fontana*
  Carl Fontana (tb)

**Standards**

“All of Me,” Lester Young-Teddy Wilson Quartet, *Pres and Teddy*
  Lester Young (ts)

“All the Things You Are,” Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker, *The Original Chet Baker and Gerry Mulligan Quartet*
  Gerry Mulligan (bs) and Chet Baker (tp)

“All the Things You Are,” Paul Desmond and Gerry Mulligan, *Two of a Mind*
  Paul Desmond (as) and Gerry Mulligan (bs)

“Autumn Leaves,” Cannonball Adderly, *Somethin’ Else*
  Miles Davis (tp)

“Bye Bye Blackbird,” Miles Davis, ‘*Round About Midnight*
  Miles Davis (tp)

“Bye Bye Blackbird,” Oscar Peterson, *Ben Webster Meets the Oscar Peterson Trio*
  Ben Webster (ts) and Oscar Peterson (p)

  Dexter Gordon (ts)

  All solos

“Four,” Miles Davis, *Workin’*
  Miles Davis (tp) and John Coltrane (ts)

“In a Mellow Tone,” Duke Ellington, *The Best of Duke Ellington*
  Ray Nance (tp) and Johnny Hodges (as)

“The Preacher,” Horace Silver and the Jazz Messengers, *Horace Silver and the Jazz Messengers*
  Blue Mitchell (tp)

“Polka Dots and Moonbeams,” Lester Young, *The Complete Lester Young Studio Sessions on Verve*
  Lester Young (ts)

  Gene Ammons (ts)
“Summertime,” Chet Baker, *Jazz Masters 32*  
Chet Baker (tp)

Ray Nance (tp)

“There is No Greater Love,” Stanley Turrentine, *Blue Hour with the Three Sounds*  
Stanley Turrentine (ts)

“There Will Never Be Another You (in F),” Chet Baker, *Out of Nowhere*  
Chet Baker (tp)

**Latin/Straight Eighth**

“Blue Bossa,” Dexter Gordon, *Bitin’ the Apple*  
Dexter Gordon (ts)

Stan Getz (ts)

“Song for My Father,” Horace Silver, *Song for My Father*  
Horace Silver (p)

“St. Thomas,” Sonny Rollins, *Saxophone Colossus*  
Sonny Rollins (ts)
Intermediate II

**Blues**

“Billie’s Bounce,” Charlie Parker, *The Original Bird*  
Charlie Parker (as)

“Now’s the Time,” Charlie Parker’s Reboppers, *Ken Burns Jazz: Charlie Parker*  
Charlie Parker (as)

**Rhythm Changes**

Ben Webster (ts)

“Cottontail,” Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington, *The Great Summit*  
Louis Armstrong (tp) and Duke Ellington (p)

“Lester Leaps In,” Lester Young, *Ken Burns Jazz: Lester Young*  
Lester Young (ts)

“Syntax,” J.J. Johnson, *Let’s Hang Out*  
J.J. Johnson (tb)

**Standards**

“Autumn Leaves (in f minor)” Chet Baker, *She Was Too Good to Me*  
Chet Baker (tp) and Paul Desmond (as)

“Autumn Leaves,” Stan Getz, *Complete Roost Recordings*  
Stan Getz (ts)

“Autumn Leaves,” Gene Ammons and Sonny Stitt, *We’ll be Together Again*  
Gene Ammons (ts) and Sonny Stitt (as)

“Perdido,” Duke Ellington, *Festival Session*  
Clark Terry (tp)

“The Preacher,” Horace Silver and the Jazz Messengers, *Horace Silver and the Jazz Messengers*  
Horace Silver (p), Hank Mobley (ts), and Kenny Dorham (tp)

**Latin/Straight Eighth**

“Theme From Black Orpheus,” Joao Gilberto, *The Legendary Joao Gilberto*  
Joao Gilberto (g)

“Triste,” Joao Gilberto, *Amoroso/Brasil*  
Joao Gilberto (g)

“Wave,” Joao Gilberto, *Amoroso/Brasil*  
Joao Gilberto (g)
Advanced

**Blues**

“Free for All,” Frank Rosolino, *Fond Memories Of*  
Frank Rosolino (tb)

Clifford Brown (tp)

“Soulville,” Horace Silver, *The Stylings of Silver*  
Hank Mobley (ts), Art Farmer (tp), and Horace Silver (p)

**Rhythm Changes**

Charlie Parker (as)

“The Eternal Triangle,” Dizzy Gillespie, *Sonny Side Up*  
Sonny Stitt (ts), Sonny Rollins (ts), Dizzy Gillespie (tp)

“I've Got Rhythm,” Bobby Knight’s Great American Trombone Company, *Cream of the Crop*  
Carl Fontana (tb)

**Standards**

“Body and Soul,” Coleman Hawkins, *Body and Soul*  
Coleman Hawkins (ts)

“Confirmation,” Charlie Parker, *Charlie Parker on Verve*  
Charlie Parker (as)

Harold Land (ts) and Clifford Brown (tp)

“Laura,” J.J. Johnson, *The Trombone Master*  
J.J. Johnson (tb)

“Moanin’,” Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, *Moanin’*  
Lee Morgan (tp)

“On Green Dolphin Street,” Miles Davis, *’58 Miles*  
Miles Davis (tp)

**Latin/Straight Eighth**

“Bolivia,” Freddie Hubbard, *Bolivia*  
Freddie Hubbard (tp)

“Desafinado,” Stan Getz and Joao Gilberto, *Getz/Gilberto*  
Stan Getz (ts)

“Recordame,” Joe Henderson, *Page One*  
Joe Henderson (ts)