

# Marshall University Jazz Festival 2021



Choosing and Preparing Repertoire for Jazz Ensemble:  
How and Why

# Choosing music that will develop idiomatic skills

- The importance of swing
- Improvisation
- Stylistic authenticity

# Choosing music that is appropriate for the ensemble

- Instrumentation
- Skill level
- Stylistic experience
- Handouts:
  - Difficulty Considerations
  - Repertoire List

# Use what you know to learn what you don't

- Techniques and styles
- Aural experience
- Commonalities (e.g., tuning, balance, listening skills)

# Specific techniques

- Introducing improvisation:
  - The rhythm section is always improvising; use their parts as a guide for winds to make up riffs
  - Use the melody or written figures from the chart to develop improvisational language
- Address the rhythm section first and keep everyone engaged:
  - Everyone should learn the rhythm section roles and parts (handout)
  - Have winds do written or improvised parts on air and match the style of the rhythm section; this will build listening skills and make them conscious of improvement in their peers

# Questions