Contents

FOREWORD	4	CHAPTER 4: MELODIC SOLOS	78
INTRODUCTION: A HISTORY OF SCAT	6	Blues in F	79
CHAPTER 1: RHYTHMIC CONSIDERATIONS	15	Minor 12 Bar Blues Solos	80
Rhythm Etude 1	16	Rhythm Changes Solo	82
Rhythm Etude 2	18	Miss June	84
Rhythm Etude 3	20	How Hot the Sun	86
Rhythm Etude 4	22	CHAPTER 5: VOCAL BASS LINES	90
CHAPTER 2: MELODIC CONSIDERATIONS	25	Cycle 5 Roots/5ths	91
Scat Syllable Warm Up	26	Cycle 5 Roots/5ths/7ths	92
Traditional Diatonic Patterns	28	Cycle 5 Roots/3rds/7ths	93
II-V Modal Jazz Patterns	37	Walking Bass Line	94
One-Measure II-V Patterns	38	Two Walking Bass Lines	95
Two-Measure II-V Patterns	40		96
Melodic Embellishment	42	Walking Bass Theme & Variations	05000
II-V Pattern Etude	46	Blues Bass Line	99
Line Contour	47	Rhythm Changes for Vocal Bass	100
Extended II-V Arpeggio Approach	48	Vocal Bass Fantasy	102
Extended II-V Altered Scale Approach	50	CHAPTER 6: VOCAL DRUM ARTICULATIONS	103
CHAPTER 3: MELODIC CONSIDERATIONS	52	Straight 8th Feel	104
Modal Scales	54	Triplet Feel	106
Chord Scales	55	16th Feel	108
Major 6th and 7th Chords	56	Shuffle Etude	110
Basic Chord Scales	57	16th Funk Etude	111
Minor 7th Chords	60	CHAPTER 7: SOLO A CAPPELLA TECHNIQUE	112
Additional Minor Scales	61		113
Altered Dominant 7th Chords	63	Solo A Cappella 12-Bar Blues	
Altered Dominant Scales	64	A Cappella Etude Walkin'	114
Dom. 7th Phrases/Walking Bass Line	68		116
Dom. 7th with Sharp 11	70	CHAPTER 8: SING-ALONG PATTERNS	118
Dom. 7th Turnaround	71	CHAPTER 9: VOCAL DRUM GROOVES	120
Locrian/Altered Mixolydian Scales	76	AUDIO TRACKS	127

Rhythm Etude 1



Chapter 2 Melodic Considerations

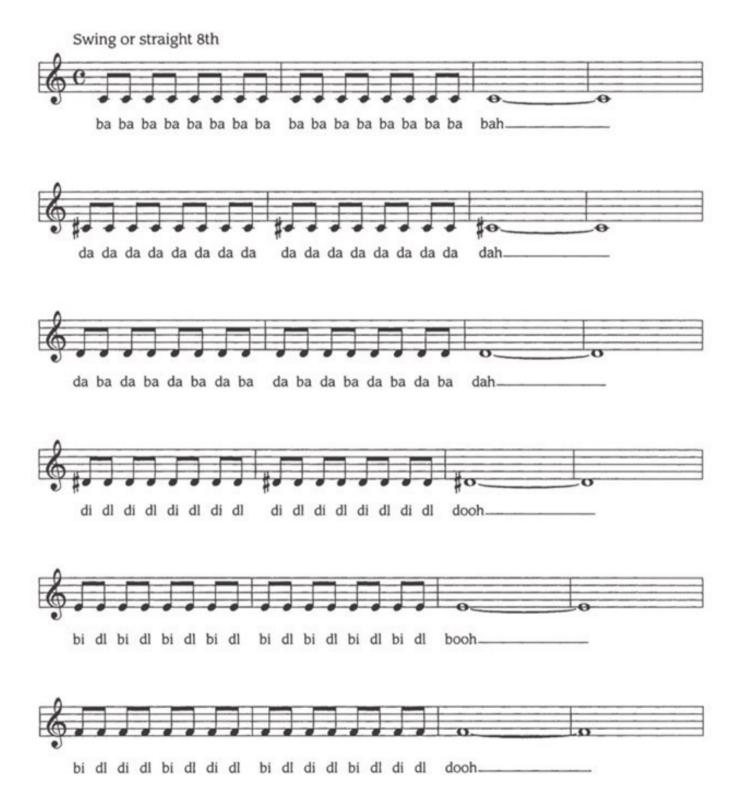
Traditional Diatonic Patterns

After practicing syllable articulation, the three basic vowel sounds may be applied to scalar and intervallic patterns. A simple diatonic approach should be comfortable for most musicians, especially those familiar with traditional exercises. It is important to consider which vowels to use when a line is ascending or descending. In general, vowels sound better when ee is used for higher notes and ah or oo is assigned to the lower pitches. It is also important to add stylistic accents to certain syllables in the phrase. The choice of syllables to accent depends upon the type of melodic approaches used in the line. Note which syllables work best when the melodic contour changes direction and when the line moves by step or wider intervals. Some of these traditional patterns already have 8th, triplet and 16th feel variations added as an introduction to Latin, jazz and funk feels.

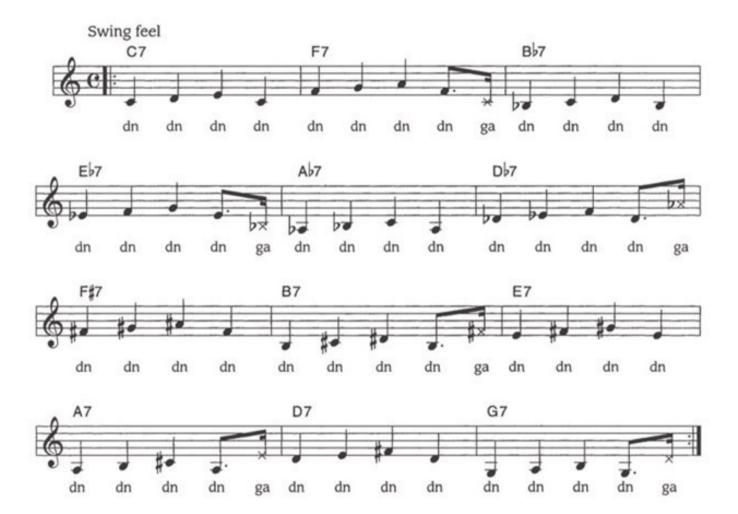
Begin with Scat Syllable Warm Up on page 26. It can be used as both a vocal warm up and as an articulation exercise using the

three common vowels *ah*, *ee* and *oo* with consonants *b*, *d*, *l* and *n*. Note that syllables which end with l or n have no written vowel but are pronounced with a soft *i* sound (i.e. *dl* is pronounced *dil*). The syllable *dn* is somewhat challenging to articulate. It is produced by lifting the soft pallet and raising the tip of the tongue to the roof of the mouth so that the attack sounds like it originates from the nose. It is not pronounced as *din* which is how most beginners articulate this syllable. Practice with a straight-8th or swing-8th feel.

Scat Syllable Warm up



Walking Bass Line 1



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Bob Stoloff currently holds the title of Associate Professor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. He is a jazz vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who has performed at international festivals with notable artists including Vocal Summit, The Ritz and Bobby McFerrin. Bob is also a jazz choir adjudicator and offers vocal improvisation workshops throughout the U.S.A., Canada and Europe.

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