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Rhythm Etude 1

Swing feel

du dn du dn du dot du dn du dn dah du e a du dn du dot

du e a du dah— du dn du e a du dot du dn du e a dah

du dn du dn du e a dot du e a du dah— du e a du dn du e a du dn

du e a du e a du dn du dn du dn du e a du dn du e a

du dn du dah— ba du e a du dn du dn du e a

du dn du dn du e a du e a du dn du e a du e a du dn

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

Swing or straight 8th

ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba ba bah_____

da da da da da da da da da da da da da da da dah_____

da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba da ba dah_____

di dl di dl di dl di dl di dl di dl di dl dooh_____

bi dl bi dl bi dl bi dl bi dl bi dl bi dl booh_____

bi dl di dl bi dl di dl bi dl di dl bi dl di dl dooh_____

Walking Bass Line 1

Swing feel

C7 F7 Bb7

dn dn dn dn dn dn dn dn ga dn dn dn dn

Eb7 Ab7 Db7

dn dn dn dn ga dn dn dn dn dn dn dn dn ga

F#7 B7 E7

dn dn dn dn dn dn dn dn ga dn dn dn dn

A7 D7 G7

dn dn dn dn ga dn dn dn dn dn dn dn dn ga

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