

"So What" by Miles Davis

INSPIRE

Listen to "So What" by Miles Davis.



Did you hear the key change up one half-step for the B section? What was the effect?

PRACTICE

"So What" utilizes the Dorian mode extensively. The first 16 measures (mm. 1-8 repeated) are D Dorian, mm. 9-16 are a half-step higher, in E-flat Dorian, before returning down to D Dorian for mm. 17-24.

Students, regardless of instrument, should learn the bass line, which is provided below in treble clef.



Have students practice performing the bass line along with the recording.

RECORD

Record students performing the bass line for the head, and then record one chorus using the D and E-flat Dorian modes to solo over the progression.

REFLECT

Listen back to the recording. What parts of their solo did they find interesting? Did they think about relating their solo to the bass line of the head?

TAKE IT FURTHER

Think about playing to the chord, not just on the chord. For example, when playing over D minor, include phrases that utilize the A altered scale (A-Bb-C-C#-Eb-F-G) resolving to D minor. How does this change the feel of the solo?

MATERIALS NEEDED

iOS, Android, or Chromebook device, and musical instruments.

DIFFERENTIATIONS

Organize some members of the class to take a note each from the chord stabs, while other students play the bass line.

SUGGESTED ASSIGNMENTS

Compose a short piece that utilizes the Dorian mode.

TAGS

SUBJECTS

Jazz

SKILL LEVELS

Beginner

SKILLS

Cognitive Thinking
 Collaboration
 Concentration
 Creative Thinking
 Critical Reflection
 Decision Making
 Memory
 Numeracy
 Planning
 Problem Solving Skills
 Self-Awareness & Confidence

MUSICAL SKILLS

Articulation
 Form
 Group Performance
 Harmony
 Instrument Motor Skills
 Reading Music
 Rhythm
 Scales
 Theory

ACTIVITY

Learn the piece "So What" by Miles Davis and improvise using the Dorian mode. "So What" is featured on Davis' album "Kind of Blue" which many critics consider his greatest album.

SKILLS

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EXTRAMUSICAL

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SONGS

So What Slow
Standard