# Fundamentals of Jazz Composition & Arranging

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## General Considerations

- Your students can already compose, because they create new sounds all the time.
- What inspires them? What are they listening to, reading, writing about, watching…?
- Don't overwhelm them! One new concept at a time.

## "I wrote this thing…"

- Be supportive and encouraging! There are *no wrong answers*.
- What is their inspiration for the piece?
    - Does their piece sound like an artist they might like?
    - Are they trying to convey a specific feeling?
- Who would play this piece?

## "I'm stuck. What do I do next?" Introducing Arranging & Theory

- What have they already composed?
- What is one theoretical concept that you/they can identify in their work?
    - What is a challenge in their composition that can be addressed with a theoretical concept?
- What is the intention/goal of their composition, if any?
    - How can you help them create one?
- What are they currently consuming that might provide further inspiration?
- Have they shown their piece to anybody else?
- Do they need to take a break?

## Resources

*Celebrate Theory,* Royal Conservatory of Music
*The Complete Arranger,* Sammy Nestico
*The Complete Elementary Music Rudiments,* Mark Sarnecki
*Inside the Score,* Rayburn Wright
*The Jazz Theory Book,* Mark Levine
*The Study of Orchestration,* Samuel Adler

JazzComposersPresent.com
LearnJazzStandards.com