

#### INTRODUCTION

This book is written for a wide variety of musicians, from aspiring to the more experienced players who would like to get another perspective on melody, swing, concept, improvising, sight-reading, and general musicianship. To be accessible to the younger player, there is partular care given to range, rhythmic figures, and overall playability. At the same time, I attempt to maintain a high level of musicality and mook at improvisation and composition from a concise, simple, and lyrical viewpoint, which I hope will appeal to the professional and more accomplished musicians as well. My inspiration for writing this book came from my son, Paul, who at the time was ten years old and playing the clarinet. He needed to play some music that was fun, inspirational, and steeped in the jazz and blues tradition. As I wrote the etudes, Paul would play them. As a result, his sight-reading and sense of time and phrasing grew by great leaps and bounds. Many manks, Paul!

essence, I have written this book as a reduction or honing of ideas I typically play when I solo. The format is similar to my two other etude books published by Warner Bros. Publications, 14 Jazz & Funk Etudes and 14 Blues & Funk Etudes, in which you learn each etude slowly and then, when ready, play the etude along with the CD accompaniment. The focus is on melodic groove playing, which ceals with the lyrical side of the music: not a lot of hard stuff but rather an example of melodies that draw on the jazz and blues tradition, saying like crazy, and get right to the heart of the matter.

learned how to play jazz and blues through learning by memory the solos of jazz legends Lester Young, Charlie Parker, John Coltrane, Striny Stitt, and others. This was the musical vocabulary I needed to get started. It wasn't until I started touring with bands in the early is that I began to read books with a passion (all of that down time on tour buses). After a while, my vocabulary and ability to express through spoken word dramatically improved. In a similar way, my musical vocabulary and playing improved through listening to of music and trying to emulate the musical ideas I'd hear my heroes play. This transcriptive concept set in an etude format will allow to learn the written notes easily through repeated playing, and you will be amazed how little snippets of these melodies will work way into your improvising. In the art of jazz improvisation, you can say a lot with a few words. I realize that this is not the most pular approach in this age of mass volume and instant gratification. But even the most abstract and cutting-edge players have firm roots melodicism, swing, and simplicity of ideas. Lyrical jazz players who have had a strong influence in the development of my own personistic of playing are Miles Davis, Stan Getz, Lee Konitz, Paul Desmond, Hank Mobley, and B.B. King, among many others.

Bob Minter

My thanks to the great musicians on the CD: John Riley, drums; Phil Markowitz, piano; and Dean Johnson, bass, and to engineer Jim Clouse at Park West Studios in Brooklyn, NY.

Thanks also to Pete BarenBregge and Dave Olsen at Warner Bros. Publications, my family Carla and Paul, and all the great artists who have influenced my musical psyche.

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All etudes composed and arranged by Bob Mintzer
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#### **BOB MINTZER**

Diversification has always been a focus for Bob Mintzer. Aside from being a tenor and soprano saxophonist, Bob also plays flute, clarinet, and EWI and is world renowned as a composer, arranger, and educator. He has been active in the jazz, pop, orchestra, Latin, and world music genres. "I've always been intrigued by the differences and similarities between cultures and their respective art forms," says Bob.

As leader, he has recorded 11 big band CDs for the DMP label, with four Grammy nominations, and eight small group jazz CDs for BMG, OWL, Canyon, and DMP.

Warner Bros. Publications has published two jazz etudes books by Bob Mintzer titled 14 Jazz & Funk Etudes and 14 Jazz & Blues Etudes. They are used successfully worldwide and give a glimpse of Bob's musical concepts.

Bob is a ten-year member of the contemporary jazz group the Yellowjackets. This band has received numerous Grammy nominations and is a regular participant at major jazz festivals throughout the world. He has recorded eight CDs with the Jackets and works with them four months out of the year. Bob performs with his own big band periodically and also works with many other bands as a player, a guest conductor and soloist on an ongoing basis, and he also has a working jazz quartet. The educational scene is vital for keeping the music alive for Bob. He performs at 20 workshops annually as well as maintaining a busy schedule teaching private saxophone at Manhattan School of Music. As a player on more than 300 recordings, Bob has performed and/or recorded with Buddy Rich, Thad Jones/Mel Lewis Big Band, Louie Bellson, Jaco Pastorius, Michael Franks, the Yellowjackets, Take Six, Bobby McFerrin, Dave Liebman, Randy Brecker, George Gruntz, Steve Winwood, Diana Ross, Queen, the American Saxophone Quartet, New York Philharmonic, Tito Puente, Eddie Palmieri, and Mongo Santamaria.

#### **PERFORMANCE NOTES**

When playing through the etudes, try to play the notes "fat" and connected, unless otherwise indicated by a dot or roof accent  $\Lambda$  over the note. This will make for a sense of forward motion and energy. The short notes should not be terribly short but be rather wide so you can really hear them. The notes with a roof accent are not as short as the notes with dots above them. Think of the sound or syllable "baap" for a roof note. The swing eighth notes should have a triplet feel to them (the two eighths should feel like a quarter note-eighth note triplet) and be more relaxed than dotted eighth-sixteenth  $\square$ . Where appropriate, I've put in accented notes, my goal being to highlight certain notes that help the groove along and create a musical terrain with changing dynamics and timbre. Check out my playing on the CD and you will hear what I'm talking about.

Each of the etudes has two bars out in front so that when you arrive at bar one, you are comfortable with the tempo and cruising right along. By all means tap your foot! Better yet, get your whole body into it. Tap your foot on one and three, and dip or move your upper torso on two and four. The music will dance if your body is dancing!

There are two versions or tracks of each etude back to back on the CD. The first track is with me playing the tenor saxophone. Here you can listen and get the vibe of what the etude is about and focus on articulation, concept, tone, and rhythmical feel. You are urged to play along with me in this first version until comfortable. The second track is a play-along version with rhythm section accompaniment only. Here you can develop a personal interpretation of the piece and work on internal time and the ability to sing out the melodies and "project." I encourage you to dive into the harmonic and melodic implications of the etudes and try improvising over the accompaniment versions using the chord changes provided. If you are not quite ready to dive in that deeply, work on playing the etudes with a good sound, good feel, and an interpretation similar to what you hear on the CD. These etudes are steeped in the blues, bebop, and post-bop idiom and will provide your heart, soul, and ears with some musical food for thought.

The last track on the CD is a bonus track. This is an opportunity for you to develop your musical skills further by transcribing my improvised saxophone solo and Phil Markowitz's improvised piano solo on the final tune in this book, "The End." I have written out the first two bars of each solo to get you started. Transcribing these solos will develop your ear training, help you hear the form, demonstrate how a solo is constructed, and provide more musical vocabulary for you to digest.

The rhythm section is burning, so really try to listen to them as well. Most of all, have some fun with these etudes. Enjoy!

### 1. BLUES 1





# II. SWINGIN'





### III. FUNKY





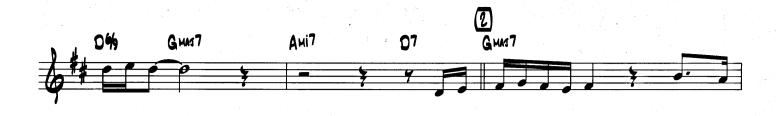
# IV. SWINGIN' 2





### V. BALLAD















### VI. BLUES 2





# VII. BOSSA





### VIII. SHUFFLE





### IX. FUNKY 2





### X. WALTZ





### XI. BLUES 3





# XII. SWING-O-RAMA





### XIII. PAUL'S BLUES



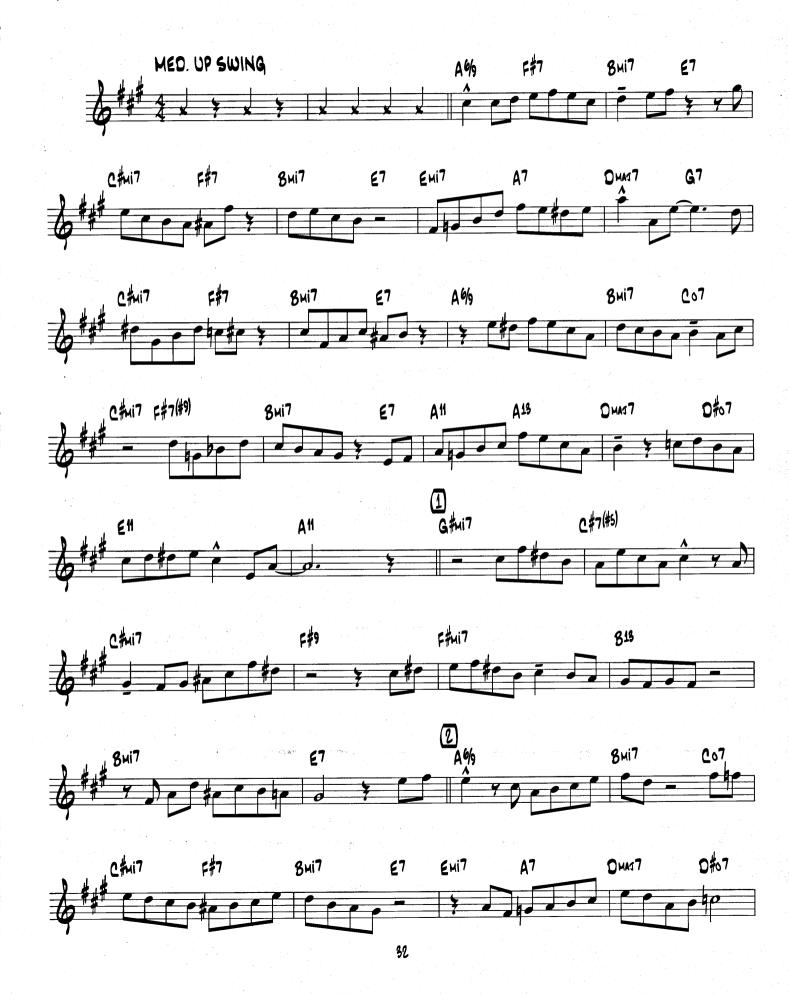


### XIV. MALCOM'S TUNE





### XV. THE END

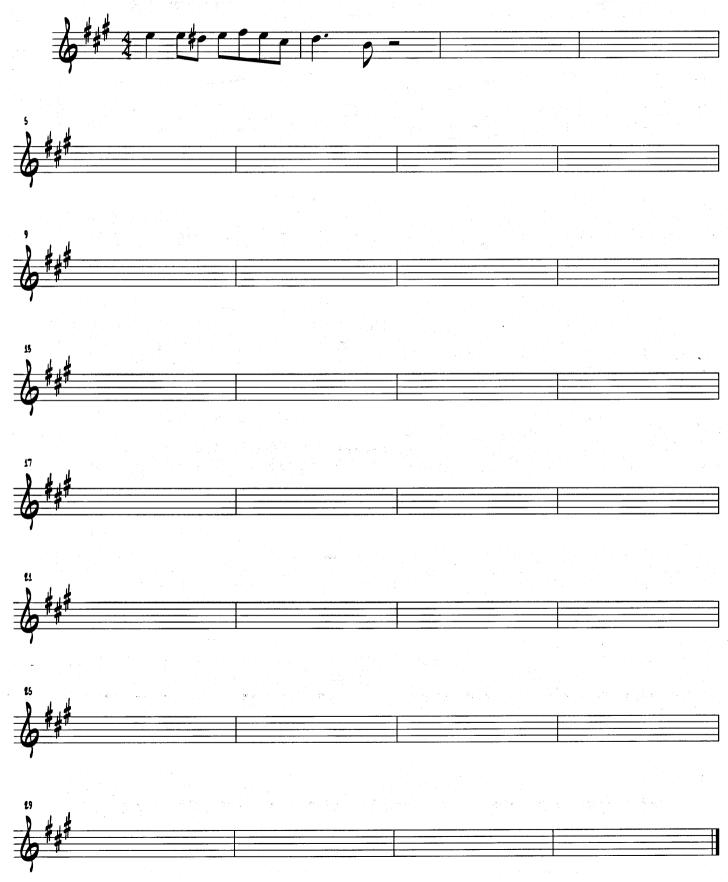




#### BY INSTRUMENTS

# THE END TRANSCRIPTION EXERCISE

TRANSCRIBE THIS PIANO SOLO FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT.



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# THE END

86 INSTRUMENTS

TRANSCRIPTION EXERCISE

TRANSCRIBE THIS SAXOPHONE SOLO FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT.

