

Todd Marcus Jazz Orchestra/ Quintet/Quartet/Trio/Duo

toddmarcusjazz.com

Educational program samples

Educational clinic program #1: Coaching for musicians with ensemble and improvisation workshop

This program is designed to expose musicians and students already familiar with jazz through a performance of one selection by Todd Marcus ensembles, discussion, coaching on improvisation, and participant involvement through the following structure:

1. Performance (10 minutes)
 - The Todd Marcus ensemble will start the educational clinic program by performing a selection from its songbook. The selection will allow students to observe live ensemble and solo playing and will also represent the composition that the musicians from the clinic audience will later attempt to perform themselves.
2. Discussion with Q&A (20 minutes)
 - Members of the Todd Marcus ensemble will discuss the selection performed, the history of the tune (if a jazz standard), the compositional process (if an original), and how each member of the ensemble approaches their performance.
3. Improvisation study (20 minutes)
 - Members of the ensemble will coach the students on improvisation as appropriate to the skill level of the students. Content will include subjects such as harmony, rhythm, time, and theory. Handouts will also be provided for students to utilize in home practice.
4. Student/musician performance (10 minutes)
 - Following the above components students/musicians will have the opportunity to themselves perform the selection that the Todd Marcus ensemble began the clinic with. This will allow attendees to apply the concepts taught during the clinic while receiving further coaching from the ensemble.

Educational clinic program #2: Incorporating Middle Eastern sounds into western music

This program for musicians or audiences familiar already familiar with jazz or general music work to expose participants to Middle Eastern music and how it can add distinct sounds to western music. Todd Marcus discusses how he has drawn from his Egyptian heritage to feature these sounds in modern western music. Demonstrations and worksheets will give session attendees content to begin incorporating in their own applications.

1. Performance (10 minutes)
 - The Todd Marcus ensemble will start the program by performing a Middle Eastern influence selection from its songbook. The selection will allow participant to observe live ensemble and solo playing which reflect the incorporation of Middle Eastern music.

2. Discussion with Q&A (20 minutes)
 - Todd Marcus will discuss the selection performed and teach about Middle Eastern music which features unique qualities built around its maqqams (Middle Eastern scales). The presentation includes photographs of Egypt and discussion about the country's culture.
3. Demonstration of maqqams as applied to jazz (10 minutes)
 - Todd Marcus shares worksheets to demonstrate maqqams using 12 note scale and how they can be applied to western music. Handouts will also be provided for students to utilize in home practice.
4. Student/musician performance (20 minutes)
 - Following the above components students/musicians will have the opportunity to themselves perform the selection that the Todd Marcus ensemble began the clinic with. This will allow attendees to apply the concerts taught during the clinic while receiving further coaching from the ensemble.

Educational program #3: Introduction to jazz – history, demonstration, Q&A

This program for general audiences new to jazz is designed to expose new audiences to jazz through a selected performance by The Todd Marcus ensemble and to discuss background and history of jazz.

This program utilizes the following structure:

1. Performance #1 (10 minutes)
 - The Todd Marcus ensemble will start the educational program by performing a jazz standard or performing a native folk song or selection from the region the ensemble is visiting (once an itinerary is approved, the ensemble will research known folk tunes or well-known composers from each country). The selection will show how a native song can be performed using the devices found in a jazz performance (arrangements, improvisation, dynamics, group interplay, etc.). The selection will allow the audience to observe live solo and ensemble playing along with the exchange of culture.
2. Discussion & Q&A (15 minutes)
 - Following the performance of the jazz standard, members of the Todd Marcus ensemble will discuss the selection performed, its background, it's relevance as a jazz standard with the vocabulary of the music, and then demonstrate how the selection can be performed in different versatile ways by applying different beats (swing, latin, waltz, groove, etc.) and tempos. The ensemble will also discuss improvisation in jazz and how a basic understanding of how it works and its importance.
3. Performance #2 (10 minutes)
 - The Todd Marcus ensemble will continue the program by performing an original composition from its songbook that allows the audience to see how elements of the jazz standard first played have been incorporated into an original composition.
4. Discussion and Q&A (10 minutes)
 - The Todd Marcus ensemble will discuss how the original composition was conceived, any influences, and show how the jazz traditions analyzed earlier with the jazz standard have been incorporated into an original tune. Audience will have the opportunity to ask questions.



Reviews:

"Todd Marcus was a great partner to work with on our educational programs. He fit in well with our existing work and brought great ideas and approaches of his own that engaged our participants. His approach really helps expose and educate participants to the music while engaging them in a way that inspires them to continue on their own."

--- Barbara Grubbs, Executive Director, Contemporary Arts Inc.

"A nice balance of talking, listening, and playing."

--- Ann Quinn, Director, Howard County Clarinet Camp

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