

The Funky Melon

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Randy Hunter

Tenor sax

Funk ♩ = 104

The musical score is written for Tenor Saxophone in a Funk style with a tempo of 104 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score consists of 16 measures, with the final measure marked 'To Coda'. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often with accents and slurs. Chord symbols are placed above the staff: G7, C7, D7, and C7. A 'simile' instruction is present in measure 14. The score is presented on 12 staves.

D.C. al Coda

In contrast to swing music, the eighth notes in funk music are played straight (as long as you are in common time).

The difficulty with funk is knowing which notes to play short, which notes to play long, and which notes to emphasize. This is where articulation becomes the controlling factor.

The same rules for house tops apply as in swing. However, in "The Funky Melon" we begin to see staccato markings as well. Staccato notes are played short and to the point with a "dit" sound and relatively little emphasis. Remember, house tops are tongued, short, and loud with a "da" sound. Let's use measures 13-16 as an example of both. Be sure to listen to the demonstration on the CD for comparison.

IMPORTANT:

This etude was taken from "**Introductory Etudes In Jazz Comprehension**", **Book 1** in the "**Complete Jazz Styles**" series. Included in the book are 12 jazz etudes in a variety of styles with a CD providing demonstrations and rhythm section play-a-longs for each selection. Visit the web site www.randyhunterjazz.com to download a promotional mp3 copy of both the play-a-long and sax demo of this etude. This book is also available for purchase at the web site (Retailer inquiries are welcome). It is available for other instruments as well.

Randy Hunter Jazz 104 Victoria Station, Woodstock, GA 30189-1465 (770) 924-7102 randyhunterjazz@mindspring.com