

50 Jazz Standards Every Jazz Musician Needs To Know

There are hundreds and even thousands of jazz standards to learn. Playing jazz requires a reasonable amount of repertoire ready to be played at a moment's notice (no pun intended). It can be overwhelming! We get emails from time to time from musicians asking for advice on which standards to learn. There are so many standards it can be hard to know where to start and which ones are the most important. It's important to know as many standards as possible. Not only will this help you out during a jam session or gig, it will strengthen your harmonic knowledge and improvisation skills. However, it's impossible to know them all and indeed some are more important to know than others.

Every city or region tends to have a different set of common tunes that jazz musicians will call. One cities list may differ slightly from the other, or even different circles of musicians will have different lists. It's important to get involved in your local jazz scene and find out what other musicians in your area like to play. But there are certain tunes that I would consider the standards among standards; the songs that every jazz musician needs to know and will likely be called in any jazz scene you are a part of. Below is a list of 50 jazz standards you need to know. If you are a beginner and looking for a place to start, this is your list! Make it a goal to learn every tune in here and you will have an excellent foundation to build off of.

If you are an experienced player, make sure you know all of these tunes. I guarantee that these will get called on you at some point. How many of these do you know? In this list is a wealth of knowledge. All of the lessons about jazz harmony, theory and language can be found just by studying these.

Brent Vaartstra (New York City, 2015)

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| All Of Me (Seymour Simons, Gerald Marks) | In A Mellow Tone (Duke Ellington) |
| All The Things You Are (Jerome Kern) | In A Sentimental Mood (Duke Ellington) |
| Alone Together (Arthur Schwartz) | It Could Happen To You (James Van Heusen) |
| Autumn Leaves (Joseph Kosma) | Just Friends (John Klenner) |
| Billie's Bounce (Charlie Parker) | Manha De Carnaval (Black Orpheus) (Luiz Bonfá) |
| Blue Bossa (Kenny Dorham) | Misty (Erroll Garner) |
| Body And Soul (John Green) | My Funny Valentine (Richard Rodgers) |
| But Not For Me (George Gershwin) | Night and Day (Cole Porter) |
| Bye Bye Blackbird (Ray Henderson) | Oleo (Sonny Rollins) |
| Cherokee (Ray Noble) | On Green Dolphin Street (Bronislaw Kaper) |
| Confirmation (Charlie Parker) | Recorda Me (Joe Henderson) |
| Days of Wine and Roses (Henry Mancini) | Satin Doll (Duke Ellington) |
| Doxy (Sonny Rollins) | Scrapple From The Apple (Charlie Parker) |
| Fly Me To The Moon (Bart Howard) | So What (Miles Davis) |
| Footprints (Wayne Shorter) | Solar (Miles Davis) |
| Four (Miles Davis) | St. Thomas (Sonny Rollins) |
| Have You Met Miss Jones (Richard Rodgers) | Stella By Starlight (Victor Young) |
| How High The Moon (Morgan Lewis) | Sweet Georgia Brown (Ben Bernie) |
| I Hear A Rhapsody (George Frangos) | Take the A Train (Billy Strayhorn) |
| I Love You (Cole Porter) | The Girl From Ipanema (Antonio Carlos Jobim) |
| I Remember You (Victor Schertzinger) | There Is No Greater Love (Isham Jones) |
| If I Should Lose You (Leo Robin, Ralph Rainger) | There Will Never Be Another You (Harry Warren) |
| If I Were A Bell (Frank Loesser) | Up Jumped Spring (Freddie Hubbard) |
| I'll Remember April (Johnson, Raye, De Paul) | What Is This Thing Called Love (Cole Porter) |
| I'm Old Fashioned (Jerome Kern) | Yesterdays (Jerome Kern) |

ALL OF ME

WORDS AND MUSIC BY
SEYMOUR SIMONS AND GERALD MARKS

MEDIUM SWING

INTRO Dm^9 $D^{\flat 7(\sharp 9)}$ $CMAJ^9$ $B^7(b9)$ F^9 $E^7(\sharp 9)$ $D^7(\sharp 9)$ F^9 $E^{\flat 7(b9)}$ $D^7(\sharp 9)$ $D^{\flat 7(\sharp 9)}$ C^6

A $C^{\flat 9}$ E^7

$F^{\flat} A^7$ Dm^7

B E^7 $A^{\flat} m^7$

D^7 Dm^7/G $G^7(b9)$

A $C^{\flat 9}$ E^7

A^7 Dm^7

C F^{\flat} $F^{\sharp} DIM$ $CMAJ^7/G$ $A^7(\sharp 5)$ TO CODA \oplus

Dm^7 Dm^7/G $G^7(b9)$ $C^{\flat 9}$ $C^{\sharp} DIM$ Dm^7 G^7