

Teacher's Guide for *John Coltrane's Giant Steps*

The AJW's mission is to perform for and with public school students in order to encourage their participation in band, orchestra, and choir programs; to uphold and promote the American jazz tradition; and to enhance quality of life for all ages through live performances employing area musicians and collaborations with nonprofit organizations and student ensembles in central Texas.

This year's season is dedicated to saxophonist John Coltrane, whose inventive harmonic language and improvisational style transformed jazz music in the 1950s and 1960s.

During the pandemic, the AJW will be **livestreaming** synchronous classroom workshops and assembly performances. The workshops feature some movement and singing.

Workshop Logistics:

You will be contacted by your workshop clinician about two weeks prior to your scheduled assembly. Ideally, workshops should take place during the assembly week, on Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday. Performances this year are all on Thursdays, at least for now.

Workshops are aimed at grade levels three and higher, with a budget of three class periods per campus. You are welcome to bring in kids from other special areas. Workshops are an opportunity for your students to get acquainted with jazz concepts and history before the assembly, but it is not required for students to enjoy the show.

Since workshops will be handled via ZOOM, the music teacher is asked to help co-facilitate this year's online experience. The AJW clinician will be the presenter, but calling on children for Q&A/discussion and running the chat will be handled by the classroom teacher. This is for the simple reason that you know your kids by name, whereas the clinician does not and would have trouble calling on them from an online grid. The classroom teacher will also decide which 3rd to 5th grade children will receive the workshop.

Assembly Performance Logistics:

The AJW will broadcast a synchronous livestream to each individual participating campus. It is important that the campus music specialist (or their designate) be available via cell phone to confirm the link immediately prior to showtime. You will be contacted by Michael Melinger from the number 512-829-7255. Call that number if you have not connected by five minutes before scheduled showtime.

That phone number is for connecting to assemblies only. Your workshops will be referred to the cell phone number of the AJW clinician assigned to your campus.

The following is intended to help you prepare your students for the Austin Jazz Workshop experience. It is divided into three parts: **Classroom Prep** (optional, done by you before the clinician's visit), **Workshop Experience** (done by the AJW clinician in your classroom), and **Performance Experience** (done by the full group during the assembly).

Classroom Prep for *John Coltrane Would Play and Count Down With Me* (optional):

Sheet music and practice recordings for both tunes are available for download from our website here: http://austinjazzworkshop.com/?page_id=16. Students will sing both numbers, and can choose to play recorder duet on *Count Down With Me*.

Workshop Experience for *John Coltrane Would Play and Count Down With Me*: The clinician will lead your classes in learning these two songs.

Performance Experience for *John Coltrane Would Play and Count Down With Me*: The audience will be prompted to sing with lyrics onscreen. Recorder students can play the printed music on their own, as an additional enrichment. Teachers are encouraged to create an opportunity for them to play at a later date for the class.

Other workshop components:

Terms for this year: *Swing, Improvisation, Vehicle*. The clinician will demonstrate the concepts of Swing and Improvisation for students. The term *Vehicle*, meaning the use of a song for improvisation, will be illustrated using Coltrane's music.

Historical Context: A traditional version of the song *Greensleeves* will be contrasted with the same piece interpreted by the John Coltrane Quartet.

Question/Answer: The clinician will leave some time for questions at the end of the presentation. During this portion, the clinician will encourage students to become involved in band, orchestra, and choir programs in middle school.

Suggested Videography

Teachers wishing to use YouTube clips of John Coltrane are encouraged to do so, but be careful about the Comments sections (we can't control when somebody posts profanity online). Some recommended search items:

Kid-Friendly:

Kids Book Read Aloud: BEFORE JOHN WAS A JAZZ GIANT by Carole Boston Weatherford

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=utXqrsRoYWo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q7X2X7LDFok>

Trane live in performance:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IsBbM5PIAHk>

Questions? Contact Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255 or ausjazz@gmail.com.