

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 remote learning, the music teacher is asked to help co-facilitate this year's online experience. 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. The link will be emailed to you for sharing at least by the Sunday before your date. Once received, please test the link and respond to the email that it works. If there is a problem with sound or image during the livestream, text Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255.

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 *Count Down With Me* (optional): Sheet music and practice recordings are available for download from our website here:
http://austinjazzworkshop.com/?page_id=16

Workshop Experience for *Count Down With Me*: The clinician will lead your classes in learning this song. It will not be featured in this year's live-streamed performance, but the PowerPoint containing it can be downloaded from our website, under the Workshops tab.

Other workshop components:

Terms for this year: *Improvisation, Vehicle.* The clinician will demonstrate the concept of 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: Time permitting, 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.