

## **Teacher's Guide for *Takin' Off! With Herbie Hancock***

*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 pianist Herbie Hancock, whose 50-year career has spanned Modal Jazz, Jazz/Rock Fusion, World Music, and more. And he continues to perform and tour to this day!

At this time, and district policy permitting, the AJW is planning to return in person to campuses this year with classroom workshops and assembly performances.

### **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 are Thursdays or Fridays.

**If you do not hear from your clinician in a timely enough manner, call or email Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255 or [ausjazz@gmail.com](mailto:ausjazz@gmail.com).**

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 they are not required for students to enjoy the show.

### **Necessary Equipment:**

Our clinician will need a laptop or desktop with PowerPoint viewing capability from flash drive that we provide. Some clinicians may bring a personal laptop.

### **Assembly Performance Logistics:**

The AJW will set up on the floor this year, if possible. The group is a quintet consisting of sax, trumpet, keyboard, bass, and drums. From your campus, the band will need three chairs and electric piano if available. Otherwise, we can bring our own electric piano. Also, we will use the projector/screen in your cafetorium to project lyrics for a singalong to two songs: *It's Watermelon, Man!* and *Cantaloupe Mine, Cantaloupe Fine*.

The following is intended to help you prepare your students for the Austin Jazz Workshop experience on your campus. 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 *It's Watermelon, Man* and *Cantaloupe Mine, Cantaloupe Fine* (optional):** Sheet music and practice recordings for both tunes are available for download from our website here: [http://austinjazzworkshop.com/?page\\_id=16](http://austinjazzworkshop.com/?page_id=16). Students will sing both numbers, and can choose to play recorders on *Cantaloupe Mine*.  
**Workshop Experience for *It's Watermelon, Man* and *Cantaloupe Mine, Cantaloupe***

**Fine:** The clinician will lead your classes in singing these songs from our PowerPoint recordings, with lyrics projected.

**Performance Experience for *It's Watermelon, Man* and *Cantaloupe Mine, Cantaloupe***

**Fine:** *Watermelon* will be sung by the audience from their seats. For *Cantaloupe*, some students will be brought up to play percussion and be in on the action with the band.

Lyrics projected.

Other workshop components:

**Terms for this year:** *Modal, Jazz/Rock Fusion, World.* These are three types of music explored by Herbie Hancock over his long career.

**Historical Context:** Herbie's development as an artist will be explored from the 1960s through the 1990s. Herbie is still an active recording and touring musician.

**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.

**Video Selection:** Time permitting, some video of Herbie's music may be shown via YouTube.

## Suggested Discography

There are many, many choices here. Here are some of Herbie's releases as bandleader.

Takin' Off!

Empyrean Isles

Speak Like a Child

Head Hunters

Future Shock

Village Life (with Foday Musa Suso)

An Evening with Herbie Hancock & Chick Corea: In Concert

River: The Joni Letters (music of Joni Mitchell)

**Questions? Contact Michael Melinger at 512-829-7255 or [ausjazz@gmail.com](mailto:ausjazz@gmail.com).**