

6 Steps to Learning a New Jazz Tune

By Michelle Mailhot

First: Listen to at least 6 versions of jazz great singing/playing the tune.

1. What key do you sing it in?
2. Analyze form of the tune
 - How many measures? (i.e :32 bars)
 - How many measures in each section? (i.e. 8)
 - What is the actual form of the tune (i.e.: AABA, ABAC)
3. Melodic/Harmonic Analysis
 - Go through and identify scale degrees in relationship to the chords above <https://youtu.be/YQONgM7nm2w>
 - What are the chords? Sing through roots, then add 3rds, 5ths, 7ths. https://youtu.be/s_2YzWE4QUM
4. Sing through melody without lyrics
 - hammer out harder passages, etc.
5. Sing through melody with lyrics.
 - Speak the lyrics and figure out what the song is about
 - What story is the author trying to tell? Put it into your own words
6. Work in a typical intro/ending and notice challenges hearing the melody from the intro (i.e.: I vi ii V, etc)
 - Learn to keep the form of the tune in your head so you don't miss your entrance post-solos.
 - Practice with iReal Pro