

Acknowledgments

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About the Author

Bruce Arnold is from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His educational background started with 3 years of music study at the University of South Dakota; he then attended the Berklee College of Music where he received a Bachelor of Music degree in composition. During that time he also studied privately with Jerry Bergonzi and Charlie Banacos.

Mr. Arnold has taught at some of the most prestigious music schools in America, including the New England Conservatory of Music, Dartmouth College, Berklee College of Music, Princeton University and New York University. He is a performer, composer, jazz clinician and has an extensive private instruction practice.

Currently Mr. Arnold is performing with his own “The Bruce Arnold Trio,” and “Eye Contact” with Harvie Swartz, as well as with two experimental bands, “Release the Hounds” a free improv group, and “Spooky Actions” which re-interprets the work of 20th Century classical masters.

His debut CD “Blue Eleven” (MMC 2036J) received great critical acclaim, and his most recent CD “A Few Dozen” was released in January 2000. The Los Angeles Times said of this release “Mr. Arnold deserves credit for his effort to expand the jazz palette.”

For more information about Mr. Arnold check his website at <http://www.arnoldjazz.com> This website contains audio examples of Mr. Arnold’s compositions and a workshop section with free downloadable music exercises.

Foreword

Many of my students have asked me how they can improve their comprehension and execution of rhythms. This book is an attempt to fill those needs.

Although there are many books out that help you learn your rhythms this series of books is unique in that each example is accompanied by an audio example. These audio examples can be downloaded for free from the internet at <http://www.muse-EEK.com>. The audio files use midifiles which can be played on a Mac or IBM computer by using a midifileplayer or any sequencer program. Midifile players are available for free at many sites on the internet. muse-EEK.com lists a few places to download this software.

This book is part of a sight reading series aimed at getting a student proficient at recognizing and playing rhythms. Other volumes in this series will introduce melodic shapes in different stylistic contexts. See the final pages of this book for a complete listing and description of current music related publications.

Muse Eek Publishing has created a website with a FAQ forum for all my books. If you have any questions about anything contained in this book feel free to contact me at FAQ@muse-EEK.com and I will happy to post an answer to your question. My goal is to educate and help you reach a higher degree of musical ability.

Bruce Arnold
New York, New York

How To Use This Book

If you are not familiar with the basic concepts of rhythm or music reading, then it is recommended that you begin by reading the “Understanding Rhythm” section and continue through “Assignments and Performance Directions.” These sections give you the knowledge necessary to utilize this book and also suggest different practicing options.

If you are already familiar with rhythmic notation and reading music, then you may proceed directly to the “Assignments and Performance Directions” section and choose your appropriate level.

Keep in mind that midi files of all Rhythm Primer exercises are available online at Muse Eek Publishing Company’s website, www.muse-eek.com, under the book’s title.