

How to follow a Blues Form and the ABA Form with Eugene Shapiro

Grades 6 - 12

Students are taught how to follow two very important forms in jazz, the blues form and the AABA form.

Materials: Instrument of choice

The Lesson:

1. The importance of following a form in Jazz while playing, listening, or improvising.
2. Explain the Blues form, using Duke Ellington's composition "C Jam Blues." I will play the melody, then use the iReal Pro app to play the background track while teaching the students how to follow the Blues form, and finally play along with a track while asking students to follow the form.
3. Demonstrate the same approach on AABA tune, using the tune "Flintstones".
4. Review the importance of following the form and ask students to find other tunes that are blues and AABA form, listen and try to follow the forms of these tunes.

Connection to the Nevada Academic Content Standards for the Fine Arts

- Creating: Conceiving and developing new artistic work and ideas.
- Performing: Realizing artistic ideas and work through interpretation and presentation.

MU:Cr1.1.EV Compose and improvise musical ideas for a variety of purposes and contexts.

MU:Cr2.1.EV Select and develop composed and improvised ideas into draft musical works organized for a variety of purposes and contexts.

MU:Pr4.3.EV Demonstrate how understanding the style, genre, and context of a varied repertoire of music informs prepared and improvised performances as well as performers' technical skill to connect with the audience.

MU:Pr5.1.EV Develop, apply, and refine appropriate rehearsal strategies to address individual and ensemble challenges in a varied repertoire of music.

Connection to Literacy: active listening, comprehension, vocabulary, comprehension, thinking, making connections

Resources: iReal Pro App

[About the Artist](#)

Eugene Shapiro

Eugene Shapiro is a Jazz guitarist, bandleader, composer, arranger, and educator. He is a Nevada Arts Council teaching artist, as well as a The Smith Center teaching artist. He has released three albums with his Jazz Quartet the *Shapiro Project*, the latest album "Planet X" was released in 2019. Eugene has been an Adjunct Music Faculty member at College of Southern Nevada (CSN) since 2000.

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Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster

The Nevada Arts Council Teaching Artist Roster is an online resource for schools, organizations and communities seeking to engage teaching artists. Roster artists are experienced in collaborating with schools and communities to conduct arts learning and cultural experiences in, through and about the arts.

Explore the roster at <https://www.nvartscouncil.org/rosters/teaching-artists/>