

BASIC RHYTHM SECTION GUIDELINES

DRUMMERS

Time Keeping-establish a quarter-note pulse- think about fills and accents later
Ride Cymbal-In jazz it is the main time keeping instrument
Team with Bass player - listen to his pulse and play with drive.
Play H.H. steady on beats 2 and 4
Know the form of the tune and listen to the chord changes

BASS

Agree on quarter note pulse with drummer
Attack notes evenly
Team with drummer rhythmically and dynamically
Play slightly ahead of the beat; propel the groove but don't rush
Use chromatic leading tones on beats 2 & 4. Chord tones on 1 & 3.
Slur beats 2-3, 4-1 to get better swing feel
Play percussively - strong but not too loud.

PIANO

Know basic changes and popular substitute chords
Comp supportively and sparsely; listen to soloist
Help create groove with bass and drums; play rhythmic riff figures
Play melodically when soloing.

GUITAR

Trade comping duties with piano.
Play 3rd & 7th of chords with piano to avoid clashing.
Watch volume, play supportively.
Play melodic passing tones.

MORE GUIDESLINES FOR DRUMMERS

Think about timekeeping first; accents and fills later.
Match your volume to the music and the soloist. LISTEN!!
Play with energy and forward momentum, but don't rush. Don't drown out the band.
Be aware of your sound mix of the instruments of the drumset:

- JAZZ - Ride cymbal and hi-hat are dominant and keep the time. Snare and bass play accents and fills.
- ROCK - FUSION - Bass drum and snare keep the time. Hi-hat and cymbal are lighter.
- LATIN - Bass drum and hi-hat, cymbal or bell keep time. Left hand plays clave or fills in.