

## **Recognizing Rhythms - 15 Helpful Hints for Recognizing Rhythms**

The following tips are intended for teachers and less experienced students when presented with a new piece of music, and also as a manner for developing better sight-reading skills.

1. Recognize rhythms as recurring patterns.
2. Recognize the imaginary bar line.
3. Recognize the second and fourth beats of each bar.
4. Recognize the “downs” and “ups” of each beat in the bar.
5. Recognize the “place” or “pocket” for each rhythm.
6. Recognize the importance of “playing” the rests.
7. Recognize recurring articulations that help internalise the rhythms.
8. Recognize quarter-notes as being played short.
9. Recognize that any note longer than a quarter is played and held for its full value.
10. Recognize single eighth-notes as being played short and accented.
11. Recognize eighth-note lines as being generally played with a triplet feel.
12. Recognize the lead player in each section as the *lead* when phrasing a rhythm.
13. Recognize the lead trumpet as the person who is responsible for stating tutti rhythmic passages in a clear and consistent manner.
14. Recognize that your first impression of a rhythm is often the correct one!
15. Recognize that the greatest musicians in the world make mistakes!

### Recommended Jazz Rhythm Reading Supplements

- a. Reading Key Jazz Rhythms (bk/cd) – by Fred Lipsius, Advance Music
- b. Contemporary Jazz Rhythms (bk/tp) – by David Berger, Charles Colin
- c. Jazz Conception (bk/cd) – by Jim Snidero, Advance Music
- d. Developing Jazz Concepts – by Lennie Niehaus, Hal Leonard