

## **SPECIFIC JAZZ ELEMENTS**

- The jazz band (combo or big band) is composed of:
  - RHYTHM SECTION – Gtr, Pno, Bass, Drms
- MELODIC SECTION – all other melodic instruments;  
on occasions, the Guitar and Piano can cross the line and become Melodic instruments when playing solo or filling in

### **MELODIC elements**

the blues scale  
blue notes added the regular scales

### **HARMONIC elements**

extended “unsolved” chords

### **RHYTHM elements** (the SWING)

#### **DIVIDING**

The beat is divided in 2 uneven eights, more like a QUINTUPLET (3+2) than a TRIPLET (this also changes with the style) depending on speed of the piece, there can be different degrees of SWING– the faster it goes, the eights are played more even

#### **ACCENTS**

the beat accents shift from 1 and 3 to 2 and 4  
the “and” in a pair of eight notes gets the accent, specially if a syncopation  
the eight notes (and sixteenths) are uneven

#### **PERFORMANCE**

depending on style, the melodic section can have a “laid-back” feel– popular in the Swing era

### **FORM elements**

Most of the tunes are either binary or ternary form, with or without a verse upfront (that almost never reappears after the chorus)

The Blues form: 3 phrases of 4 measures each, where the 2<sup>nd</sup> phrase starts on a IV chord

Overall, the form Tune–Improvisation–Tune might be considered a ternary form (ABA), where, in the B section, the soloist replaces the original melody with his/her own on–the–spot composed melody, while the harmonic section follows the original changes of the tune