I know what you're thinking

Ned Bennett

This piece includes an improvisation section, just like a normal jazz performance. Use any notes from an E Dorian scale (D major with E as its home note). Try not to wibble by playing correct but random notes! Instead, start with just two or three notes, and play rhythmic musical phrases that you can repeat and develop. Keep track of where you are so you don't miss the D.S.



but not for me

Music and Lyrics by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin

This is a beautiful standard that many jazz musicians like to play at gigs and jam sessions. It should be played at a bright tempo, but still sound relaxed and easy. Although the indication is to swing the quavers, the faster a piece goes the more the quavers even out. A slow blues, for example, would be really heavily swung (with at least a 2:1 ratio), whereas a fast bebop *roast-up* would be played with virtually even quavers, only a hint of swing (maybe 3:2). In every case, however, the slurs are critical – from off-beats to on-beats, never the other way around!



oxford street

Ned Bennett

It may be best to think of this as unaccompanied classical music rather than jazz. Although the rhythm, melody and implied harmony are born out of modern jazz, your approach should be somewhat nearer to playing Bach. The quavers should be played straight (not swung) and although the rhythm needs to be accurate and in time, a touch of rubato won't hurt. Allow yourself space to breathe, and lean gently on the bass notes when they occur. Try to make the piece sound unhurried and relaxed, even if the notes move at pace. Do use alternative fingerings for both high F then E in bars 22 and 61 – the phrase will be easier to play.

