

# **THE TROMBONE SECTION OF JAZZ ENSEMBLE**

## **Compiled by Vince Corozine**

### **Lead Trombone**

- The lead trombone is to the trombone section what the lead trumpet is to the whole band. He has all the freedom of the lead trumpet.
- He must “lock” in with the lead trumpet and follow his lead.
- He functions as the assistant coach in the brass section. (Under the lead trumpet player).
- He must carry the pitch and time, as established by the lead trumpet to his section.
- He gets his chance to lead when trombones play alone or behind saxes. The trombones must never get in the way of the soloist. The lead player must make the background interesting, exciting, and colorful without getting in the way of the soloist.

### **Inner Voice Trombones**

- They must “lock” in with the lead trumpet and bridge the gaps between lead and bass trombone.
- An inner voice player should always play “some” lead in order to gain the experience of the reality of “sitting in the driver’s seat.”
- Inner voice trombones are chord-enrichers, thickness-adders, texture-fabricators, lead-supporters, sound warmers, articulation-crispers and above all, lead-followers.
- Consider the inner voice moving parts as disguised lead parts! Play them with that thought in mind.
- You must exhibit pride, enthusiasm, and the highest possible degree of perfection...precision.

### **Bass Trombone**

- Must lock in with the lead trumpet and lead trombone.
- He is the lead player for the bottom of the band.
- His sound is so rich that the overtones affect every sound that is stacked above him.
- The bass bone is a brass instrument and it carries more influence on the bottom of the band than do the Bari Sax or Bass. The rich sound can “lock” in with the lead trumpet and can strengthen the sound of the band.

- The bass trombone player helps the lead trumpet player establish the pitch for the band, setting up a rich stack of overtones for the upper horns to vibrate on, boosting lead trumpet and lead trombone to a level of projection that neither could achieve alone.
- Sound quality and projection are his major concerns.
- Low brass instruments speak (sound) later than the high brass; therefore, the bass trombone must really push the time (slight anticipation of the beat).