

Example Jazz 'Themes' / 'Heads'

*The 'theme' or 'head' is the main melody on which a jazz standard is based.

*It is usually simple, played at the beginning and end of the piece in unison by one or more frontline instruments.

*If you have composed a short 'theme'/'head' (e.g. 8 bars long) it is recommended that you repeat it (just as these example 'themes'/'heads' are repeated) before continuing to the next section of your piece.

*After it is heard at the beginning of the piece, the 'theme'/'head' is then used as the basis for 'solos' played by the frontline (and other melodic) instruments.

*During the 'solos', the soloists improvise in turn, normally for 8, 12 or 16 bars each. In their improvisations, the soloists combine motifs from the 'theme'/'head' with new material.

Satin Doll

The 'Satin Doll' theme is written in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first eight bars of the melody, which repeat. The second staff continues the melody for the next eight bars, also repeating. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

Have You Met Miss Jones?

The 'Have You Met Miss Jones?' theme is written in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first eight bars of the melody, which repeat. The second staff continues the melody for the next eight bars, also repeating. The key signature has two flats (Bb, Eb).

Take The 'A' Train

The 'Take The A Train' theme is written in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first eight bars of the melody, which repeat. The second staff continues the melody for the next eight bars, also repeating. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

They Can't Take That Away From Me

The 'They Can't Take That Away From Me' theme is written in 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first eight bars of the melody, which repeat. The second and third staves continue the melody for the next eight bars, also repeating. The key signature has three flats (Bb, Eb, Ab).