Sample Lessons Ranging from Beginning to Intermediate

First semester

- 1) One pitch open D
 - 1) Call and Imitation: Teacher plays pattern all students play back exact pattern (i.e., imitation) experiment with varying rhythm, articulation (staccato, legato), bowing (different parts of bow, lift and circle), dynamics (loud, soft, cresc., dim)
 - 2) My name is "Michael Hopkins" figure out how to play your name. Exploration opportunity everybody simultaneously working out some one-measure patterns
 - 3) Call and Response: Teacher plays pattern (my name is...) all students simultaneously play back different pattern their name, then try with other rhythms (i.e., improvisation)
 - 4) Students form pairs and do Call and Imitation and then Call and Response partner 1 plays a one-measure pattern, partner 2 plays back a different pattern



Second semester

With D – G medium rock background Major pentatonic – D- E- F#- A- B

- 5) Teacher plays 2-measure pattern all students play back exact pattern (i.e., imitation)
- 6) Exploration opportunity everybody simultaneously working out some twomeasure patterns
- 7) Teacher plays patterns all students simultaneously play back different pattern (i.e., improvisation)
- 8) Students form pairs partner 1 plays a two-measure pattern, partner 2 plays back a different pattern
- 9) Teacher plays some four measure patterns, students play back exact patterns 10) Exploration opportunity
- 11)Students get back in pairs partner 1 plays a four-measure pattern, partner 2 plays back a different pattern
- 12)Students form different pairs partner 1 plays a four-measure pattern, partner 2 plays back a different four-measure pattern
- 13) Students form groups of three trading four-measure patterns

Year 2

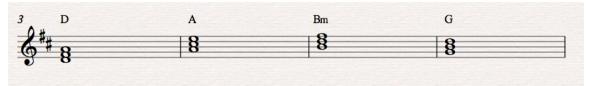
Dm – C - Bb Background Minor pentatonic scale D-F-G-A-C-D

Follow procedures described above, using Imitation, Exploration, and Improvisation Add in Bb to the pentatonic scale for extra flavor Bassists can shift hand to 3rd position for the A-C-D pattern

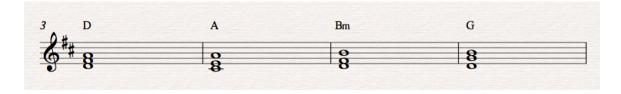
Year 3With D- A- Bm – G background Play D major in eighth notes – go to 9th scale degree:



Learn the notes in the chords



Explain the concept of inversion, rearranging chords to smooth the voice leading from one chord to the next:



Following a similar pattern of Imitation, Exploration, Improvisation, play the chord pitches, incorporating voice leading principles:

Ex. 1 – Half notes



Ex. 2 – Quarter notes



Explain the concept of non-chord neighboring tones that can be used to connect the chord tones together:



Students can be placed into groups of 2 or 3, with one person playing half notes, one playing quarter notes, and one playing eighth notes.

Year 4

Blue Monk – Blues Learn the Head Chart – swing the 1/8 notes

Show them Basic 12-Bar Blues progression
Teach them notes in chords (see procedure above)
Teach them major pentatonic (D-E-F#-A-B)
Minor pentatonic (D-F-G-A-C-D)
Blue note (tritone – G#/Ab))
Combine into 9-tone scale (D-E-F-F#-G-G#-A-B-C)
Teach them Mixolydian scales

Imitation Exploration Improvisation with partners

Put it all together into a performable structure

- 1. Head
- 2. Partner jamming
- 3. Soloists?
- 4. Open it up everyone go for it on a chorus
- 5. Head