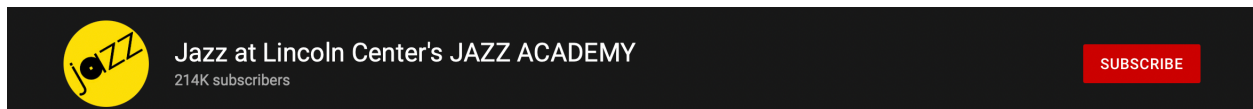


# A Beginner's Guide to YouTube for Jazz Students

By: Ryan Kerwin

The internet offers more resources for music learning than ever-before. While this means that at any time and place a student can access high-level instruction on any instrument in any style, the saturation of materials can make it challenging to find the most relevant information. This brief guide is intended to point young students interested in learning more about jazz towards the resources on YouTube that have been the most helpful for my own development.



[Jazz at Lincoln Center's JAZZ ACADEMY](#) offers masterclasses for every instrument in the band and a variety of jazz styles.

Where to Start: If you have never checked out this channel before, start with the masterclasses for your instrument. [As a trumpet player](#), getting exposure to the perspectives of the master musicians featured in their trumpet playlist was an important resource.



[Jazz at Lincoln Center's Youtube channel](#) offers incredible concerts, behind the scenes footage, and lectures.

Where to Start: [Wynton at Harvard: "Hidden in Plain View: Meanings in American Music"](#) is an absolute necessity for all jazz students. Hearing a true scholar and master of American Music discuss the meanings hidden in blues and swing will change your perspective and add depth to your approach.



[Jeff Schnieder](#) is an online music educator, saxophonist, and composer. While he is no longer active very often on Youtube, his channel is an incredible archive of short lessons designed to improve your jazz soloing skills.

Where to Start: [Jeff's playlists](#) are organized by topic – A student can't go wrong if they follow their interests here, but I have always particularly enjoyed Jeff's series, [Loop of the Day](#).



[Jeff Antoniuk](#) is a tenor saxophonist and online music educator. He regularly posts new videos on YouTube and is very active running his online jazz workshop, [JazzWire](#).

Where to Start: It's hard to go wrong with anything on Jeff's channel but I particularly love his series with jazz trumpeter James Moore, "[J and J on Jazz](#)", and the [Guided Listening Samples](#). **Do not underestimate how much can be learned just from hearing what a very experienced musician has to say about the music that they listen to.**



[Ritchie Vitale](#) is a NYC-based trumpeter and music educator. I first heard his playing listening the the Viilage Vanguard Jazz Orchestra in the winter of 2018.

Where to Start: A student cannot go wrong by following their interest in any of the videos on the [Jazz Tutorials playlist](#) or the [Jazz and Salsa Tutorials – Intermediate Level Playlist](#).



[Shawn Bell](#) is an LA-based music educator, trombonist, and recording artist. His channel features video tutorials for jazz improvisation, brass-playing fundamentals, and in-studio performances.

Where to Start: Mr. Bell's playlist, [Jazz/Improvisation Lessons](#), features very thorough and approachable breakdown for essential jazz improvisation topics such as swing feel and jazz articulation.



[Chad Lefkowitz-Brown](#) is a tenor saxophonist and online music educator. His channel and website, [Jazz Lesson Videos](#), offer some of the best breakdowns and practice materials for jazz improvisation topics available on the internet.

Where to Start: While there are many great materials available from the Jazz Lesson Videos website, young students can get a lot of mileage by just watching the videos and practicing the examples Mr. Lefkowitz-Brown presents in [Jazz Lesson Videos](#) or [Jazz Ed Videos + PDFs](#).



[Nahre Sol](#) is a classically-trained pianist and composer. Her videos document her compositional process, performances, and offer tips for how to practice.

Where to start: Though Ms. Sol's channel may not seem like the first place a jazz student should look, I may have learned more about creative musicianship from her channel than anywhere else. Her series, [PRACTICE NOTES](#), offers a glimpse in to the incredibly creative approach Ms. Sol has taken to continue to challenge her technique, and her series, [HOW TO SOUND LIKE](#), offers an exemplary approach to understanding and adopting the musical techniques of famous composers into a personal style.



[Aimee Nolte](#) is an LA-based keyboardist, vocalist, and music educator. Her videos present tutorials and discussions on a variety of topics for jazz keyboard, jazz vocals, and performing in contemporary styles.

Where to start: EVERY jazz student needs to understand harmony through the study of the keyboard. I highly recommend students checking her playlist, [Chord Voicings](#), for an approachable breakdown of how jazz harmonies are typically realized on the keyboard.



[Open Studio](#) is a YouTube channel dedicated to presenting courses and content from some of the world's greatest jazz musicians to help you become a better musician.

Where to Start: Open Studio organizes their [YouTube channel playlists by artists](#) – a student might find it helpful to start with a player that performs on their instrument and expand from there. In cases you require a short burst of information and inspiration, I recommend the playlist, [2-Minute Jazz](#).



If you want to learn bebop from a true legend of the music, go straight to [BarryHarrisVideos](#). This channel presents snippets of instruction from Barry Harris's famous workshops during a brief residency at the Royal Conservatory in The Hague between 1989 and 1998.

Where to Start: If you are new to Barry Harris, check out the [longer videos](#) available on this channel and see if you can follow along as if you were a member of [the classes](#). These classes go very fast, and in some cases a student can benefit a lot by following along with the videos with a student that has more experience with Mr. Harris's methodology.

### Final Thoughts:

The amount of information a jazz student can gather entirely from the Internet at relatively no cost is staggering. The trouble is sifting through it, finding the most relevant information, and following through by applying new knowledge and techniques in musical practice. To close, I want to present a couple crucial tips to getting the most out of these resources:

- 1. Avoid the temptation to devour everything at once.**

With so much information available in just a few keystrokes, it can be very tempting to binge-watch tutorials like a new Netflix series. Further, as practicing becomes frustrating it is very tempting to seek out new information rather than refine what you have already gathered. To get the most out of these instructional resources, students need to follow their interests to gather some new ideas and then try to apply them in their practice consistently over a period of days or weeks before moving on to the next topic. Always remember, *knowledge is not skill*.

- 2. The internet is not a replacement for a personal mentorship.**

Jazz music, and music in general, is a social phenomenon. Learning any tradition or art form requires spending a significant amount of time around expert practitioners who can provide you with complete context for the concepts you learn and provide you with pointed feedback. Keep in mind that these resources are a *supplement* to this essential musical process.

- 3. Use this guide as a starting point for your own research.**

This discusses many important and reputable sources of jazz education on the internet, but it's far from all. In addition to these resources, be sure to do some research and find actual footage of the musicians that you admire. For example, If you want to truly understand the artistry of John Coltrane what more important information could there be an actual footage of him playing in real time? Consulting the source material is essential to developing your own perspective on the jazz tradition.