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introduction

When Randy Sabien was a music student, he accidentally discovered a recording by the great jazz violinist, Stephane Grappelli. A whole new world opened for him and he realized immediately that he wanted to play jazz on the violin and also share this newfound world with young string players everywhere. The first tune Randy attempted to learn on his own was John Coltrane's "Giant Steps," one of the most difficult jazz tunes ever written. Although frustrated by the complexity of Coltrane's masterpiece, Randy eventually learned to play jazz through an old fashioned system called trial and error. After 25 years as an internationally renowned jazz artist, Randy teamed up with Bob Phillips, an educator well known for his innovative use of alternative music in the string curriculum. The result is *Jazz Philharmonic*, a pedagogically sequenced book of original jazz tunes that allows students to begin a journey into the world of jazz and other popular styles of music.

The layout of the book includes a Preparatory Page for each tune. Echo back each phrase Randy plays on the CD to develop a sense of jazz style and timing. Mastery of the Preparatory Page building blocks will prepare you to play the tunes, add solos and begin improvising. The Tune and Background Page

includes background parts for the violins and violas while the cellos and basses also learn to play jazz bass lines. The Solos Page introduces two progressively difficult jazz solos based on the tune. Developing arrangements is easy; some students can play the tune while others play a background or bass part. Individuals or sections can take turns playing the written-out solos as well as improvising new solos. Easy piano parts are included in the teacher's manual so a complete rhythm section can be added to the strings. If no rhythm section is available, the CD can be used in performance. The left channel features Randy performing all the written tunes and solos and several choruses of improvisation. The right channel features a professional rhythm section playing all the Background 2 and Bass 2 parts. By panning right or left you can play along with Randy or the rhythm section. The CD creates a great avenue for beginning improvisation as well as playing some great jazz tunes.

Put on the CD, learn the tunes and play along with Randy and the band.

P.S. It's 25 years later and Randy still can't play "Giant Steps," but maybe you will.