

## APPENDIX D

# Guide to Making Transcriptions

Transcribing involves notating the music that you hear on paper. To facilitate the process, use the following steps:

1. Have manuscript paper, a pencil, and an eraser ready.
2. Prepare the manuscript paper by putting four measures in a single line.
3. Notate the original chord changes of the solo that you intend to transcribe.
4. Notate the rhythmic framework of the solo (beginnings and ends of phrases).
5. Notate pitches that you can easily transcribe.
6. Notate difficult passages (reference the chord progression).
7. Notate performance details (phrasing, articulation, dynamics).
8. Analyze the transcription using the following questions about the structure of the solo:
  - a) What is the overall form of the solo?
  - b) What is the role of the original material in shaping the structure of the solo?
  - c) How is the musical continuity of the solo articulated?
  - d) How is the idea of musical development realized?
9. Analyze the transcription using the following questions about the content of the solo:
  - a) What is the relationship between the melody and harmony?
  - b) What is the role of meter and rhythm?
  - c) What is the role of expressive devices in shaping the flow of the solo?
  - d) What is the role of articulation in controlling the ebb and flow of melodic ideas?
  - e) What kinds of improvisational techniques are utilized in the solo?
10. Memorize the transcription.
11. Sing the transcription.
12. Perform the transcription (at the original tempo using the same phrasing, articulation, dynamics, tone quality, time feel, and expressive devices).
13. Personalize and assimilate the transcription.
  - a) Select phrases that you like, practice in twelve keys, and use it in a different tune.
  - b) Improvise your own melodic content while retaining the rhythmic structure of the transcription.