

How to use Preludes of Grooves and Sniffs

Each piece has several 'Groove Builder' elements. The idea is that each of these sections is repeated until it is grasped by the ensemble. Once one Groove Builder is learnt move on to the next Groove Builder and continue in the same manner until the whole Groove is learnt (although if some players are struggling to play one Groove Builder they can stay at the level they are comfortable).

Once the whole Groove is learnt the ensemble can play the Groove 1 Level 1 together. When that is secure different players or sections of the ensemble can be assigned different levels of the Groove, which essentially harmonises the Groove.

Once Groove 1 is secure the other elements can be introduced. There may be other Grooves that can be played by more confident players or a Tag that everyone can play to round off sections or bring the Groove to a conclusion.

What is important to note is that there is no one way to play these pieces, and it's good to vary how they are performed each time. This will take clear direction and cues from the ensemble leader e.g. bringing in different Grooves or Groove Levels, cueing Tags etc. You can even encourage improvised solos in breaks between Grooves or over the top of the ensemble playing the Groove.

Enjoy Grooving!