**Jazz Tiering:**

**Different Ways To The Melody**

In each tier all is well aware of the original Melody, Harmony, and Rhythm.

**Tier #1: For All**

Planned - play the melody exactly as it is written in the music as printed on paper from the composer or arranger or even editor.

**Tier #2: For Most**

Simple Improvisation - keep the chord structure and rhythm structure, but improvise the basic melody. This is the early stage of just playing around with the main melody. Perhaps adding a few extra notes such as passing tones or neighboring tones. It may also be simple things like holding a pitch longer or cutting a pitch shorter.

**Tier #3: For Some**

Advance Improv - keep the chord structure but improvise the basic melody and rhythm of the music. This is more along the lines of *“fake charts”* or *“fake books.”*

**Tier #3: For Few**

Pure Improvisational - working with the basic chord structure, freely improvise the melody, rhythm and harmony but do not lose the tune of the song. This is much like professional jazz charts that have nothing but the chord symbols above the staff and few if any notes are printed on the staff. It is a given that the musician knows the original melody and thus does not need it printed out on paper.