

Phrase Rhythm companion files Files

St. Thomas

For this lesson, there was just one audio file. It is the rhythm section track to St. Thomas.

Listen to Sonny Rollin's solo on the album *Saxophone Colossus*. Memorize a portion of it. Perhaps the first chorus. Play it with Sonny and listen to getting it exactly within his time and rhythm. Then play it with the rhythm track to the right.

Phrase Rhythm Transcriptions

Take a look at the phrase rhythm transcriptions to the right. As explained in the video lesson, they are graphic illustrations of particular segments of classic jazz solos.

The graphic segments represent notes. The longer the line, the longer the note. The vertical position of the lines approximately the high or low pitch of the note. The red and blue colors separate the phrases in order to see where one ends and the next begins. What makes these examples of great solos is that all the phrases relate in some way, however, separating them like this is what illustrates their rhythm.

Unlike musically notated transcriptions, these rhythm transcriptions are meant to be close approximations. Rather than focus on note for note accuracy, analyze them from the perspective of the phrase's relative lengths and the space between them.



St. Thomas rhythm track
(Tap or click to play the file)



Miles Davis first chorus on *So What*
from *Kind of Blue*



Sonny Rollins' 3rd and 4th chorus on *St. Thomas*
from *Saxophone Colossus*



Dexter Gordon's bridge and last A on *Darn That Dream*
from *Ballads*