NJAJE Junior Saxophone Etude No. 3A



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Welcome to the Junior Saxophone jazz audition piece! It is in three parts:

First is an easy, swinging section from measures 1-20 in the style of Count Basie. It opens with a four-bar introduction and moves into a 16-measure tune based on the chords of the second half of the jazz standard "Just Friends." Concentrate on keeping a steady sense of swinging time. Some fingering advice: you can use the "fork" F-sharp fingering (the extra key beneath your right hand E and D keys) for the F-sharps on beat 3 of measure 6, the last 16th of beat 2 of measure 15, and beat 2 of measure 16. This fingering will seem awkward at first, but after you practice, it will become less "bumpy" than the standard fingering which forces you to trade your first and second fingers between F and F-sharp.

Second is a slow minor-key ballad from measures 21-35. Play in a legato, smooth and connected style and use straight (not "swinging") eighth notes. Be careful not to rush the 16th notes - at this slow tempo, they are not as fast or complicated as they look! More fingering advice: the "bis" B-flat fingering (the little key next to the left-hand B key) generally works better here than the side or the "one-and-one." Again, it may feel awkward at first since your left hand first finger plays both the B key and the "bis" key at the same time, but after some practice it will feel smooth and effortless. Some tasteful vibrato on the long notes will make this ballad more effective and singing.

Third is a funk/rock tune from measure 36 to the end, in the style of the Saturday Night Live, Tonight Show, or David Letterman bands. Again, the sixteenths are not as difficult as they look - keep the tempo steady and driving - don't rush! The biggest challenge may be the high notes: keep your hands close to the palm keys on the high E-flats and high E in measures 44, 47, and 49.

I hope you have as much fun learning this as I did writing it - good luck!