Chromatic Etudes
And Sound Patterns For Saxophone

by Denis DiBlasio

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Etudes
As a jazz player performs the same song differently each time, so it is for these Chromatic Etudes. Indicators of dynamics, tempo, etc. are all taken as gentle suggestions. Manipulate freely as one would improvise on a familiar song, making each version of an etude different. Let creativity rule.

Sound Patterns
Each pattern creates a specific sound. The 1966 book Patterns For Jazz by Oliver Nelson was one of our first jazz books. Oliver’s approach was a player would get a sound under their fingers, then the sound would pop out when and where the ear and taste would place it. No rules... no “this lick fits over these chords”... no criteria. If one were to analyze a Charlie Parker solo, it would become obvious that a particular pattern could fit in a myriad of harmonic settings. It is in this context that these Sound Patterns are presented. Play them slowly, evenly and accurately, being sure to listen to the sound they offer, then leave it at that. These Sound Patterns may be (and should be) rhythmized. They are presented in mostly straight eighths for convenience sake. Get them under your fingers, don’t think too much, then go about improvising. Just let it go. See what happens.