About Us | <u>Bloom's Picks</u> | Writings & Philosophy | Courses | Faculty | More Information | Store

Bloom's Ten Commandments of Jazz Soloing

- 1. Thou shall not abandon ideas.
- 2. Thou shall not abuse repetition.
- 3. Thou shall play only what is necessary.
- 4. Thou shall tell a story.
- 5. Thou shall stop when the story is over.
- 6. Thou shall play with the rest of the band.
- 7. Thou shall listen at all times; to what was just played and to the rest of the band.
- 8. Thou shall not de-sensitize the band and audience through over use of any musical element.
- 9. Thou shall appreciate the audience and show it through dignified presentation.
- 10. Thou shall use rests with the same commitment as notes.

Bloom's Laws

- 1. No fewer than eight tunes per one-hour set.
- 2. No duplication of tempo, mood, or groove per set.
- 3. A ballad should never be more than three choruses long.
- 4. Do not repeat the order of the soloists.
- 5. Everyone should not solo on every tune.
- 6. Every tune should be arranged.
- 7. No tune should last more than ten minutes.
- 8. Do not duplicate arrangements.
- 9. Do not repeat tunes.
- 10. Vary the intensity from chorus to chorus.
- 11. Neither ego nor machismo should override musical sense.
- 12. Not every tune has to include improvisation.
- 13. No sheet music on the bandstand.

Bloom's Chicago Tribune Book Review (1/25/03)