

---

Subject: OT: Jazz Math

Posted by [John Macy](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2007 13:28:11 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

## JAZZ MATH

1. If  $x$  is the number of chord changes in a tune, and  $y$  is the tempo at which it is played, then  $xy$  = factor by which a guitarist will turn down his amp.
2. # (notes/measure played by a saxophonist on a ballad) is proportional to # (drinks he has consumed).
3.  $4 + 4.125 + 4 + 3.875 + 4 + 4.667 + 4 + (x, \text{ where } x \text{ is unknown}) = 1$  chorus trading with the drummer.
4.  $(2 + 5 + 1) \times (\# \text{ of freshman college jazz students, internationally}) = \text{Annual income of Jamie Abersold, in dollars.}$
5.  $\text{Infinity} = (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) + (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) + (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) \dots$
6.  $5/4 + 7/4 + 11/4 = \text{drummer's gig.}$
7. If (# of drinks consumed, per musician) > (# of drinks comped by club), then unrest will prevail unless (cost per drink) < 1/20 (pay for gig).
8. 1 up tempo tune + 1 rushing drummer +  $x$  (double lattes) =  $x$  (fights among horn players to solo first).
9. 1 ballad + 1 dragging drummer +  $x$ (Percocets) = 1 cleared house, where  $x$  is proportional to the speed at which the room empties.
10. 2 (diddles) = paradiddle
11. Jam session + eighth -note rest = missed opportunity.
13.  $\{(\text{New} + \text{York}) \text{ squared} - (\text{NewNew} + \text{YorkYork} + \text{YorkNew}) + \text{New York} + 2(\text{Ride} + \text{Sally}) - \text{Sally}\}$  divided by (less than five seconds) = medley from hell.
14.  $(1/\text{vocalist's experience in years}) \times (\#\text{number of beats per measure}) \times 32 = \#\text{ of unintended modulations} + \text{skipped beats, per chorus.}$
15. If  $x$  = piano's deviance from being in tune,  $y$  volume level of drummer,  $z$  = length of gig, and  $d$  = number of drinks consumed by pianist on break, then  $(d)$  ( $xyz/\text{pay of the gig in dollars}$ ) predicts the

probability of pianist urinating in the instrument.

16. "Vow of Poverty" theorem: If # people in audience < # of musicians on bandstand, then pay per musician < one individual cover charge.

17. "Bass" theorem: A musician's IQ is inversely proportional to the size of his/her instrument, and directly related to the register of the instrument.

18. "Rule of One" theorem: (Universe of jazz vocalists)  $\vee$  (# of jazz vocalists who sing "Summertime") = 1 = rank of "Summertime" among tunes most despised by instrumentalists.

19. "Devil's Music" theorem: Smooth Jazz = square root of all evil.

20. "Two Americas" Buffet theorem: Fresh salmon/flaccid spanakopita + prime rib/limp egg rolls + jumbo shrimp/soggy chicken fingers = high society gig/Elks club gig.

21. How much should a gig pay, based on the following conditions: drive 90 miles outside of town through pouring rain; set up two hours in advance; load in through slimy kitchen accessed by treacherous outdoor staircase; and play four hours of continuous crappy dance favorites for

the above gig for 1/3 your worth, a college student offers to play the

-looking. The client has a tin ear. Who will get the job? Why do you bother practicing?

22. If a trumpet player counts off a tune in 4/4 time at mm = 180, and the drummer slows it down at a constant rate of deceleration over 8 measures to mm = 150, does the pianist still suck?

23. If a bassist plays a root, a pianist superimposes a major seventh chord built on the fifth, and a saxophonist plays the 13th, will attractive women notice? Will the drummer?

24. If a successful attorney earns 3x as much as a successful musician, but the musician believes his work is 4x as fulfilling, who actually has larger genitalia?

25. Your trio is set up in a perfect equilateral triangle. A singer sets up exactly in the middle. Will the three of you be divided against the singer or against one another?

26. If (% of Americans who like jazz) = (% of Americans who like chain saw sculptures), what is America's most important indigenous art form?

Subject: Re: OT: Jazz Math

Posted by [Paul Artola](#) on Wed, 11 Apr 2007 15:35:45 GMT

[View Forum Message](#) <> [Reply to Message](#)

---

Wow! That's a lot of theory for my poor brain. I guess my math skills have deteriorated over all these years. I only seem to remember a couple of facts - the square root of 100 is 10 and the square root of 69 is 8-something!

- Paul Artola  
Ellicott City, Maryland

On 11 Apr 2007 23:28:11 +1000, "John Macy" <[spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com](mailto:spamlessjohn@johnmacy.com)> wrote:

>

>JAZZ MATH

>

>1. If  $x$  is the number of chord changes in a tune, and  $y$  is the tempo at which it is played, then  $xy$  = factor by which a guitarist will turn down his amp.

>

>2. # (notes/measure played by a saxophonist on a ballad) is proportional to # (drinks he has consumed).

>

>

>3.  $4 + 4.125 + 4 + 3.875 + 4 + 4.667 + 4 + (x, \text{ where } x \text{ is unknown}) = 1$   
>chorus trading with the drummer.

>

>4.  $(2 + 5 + 1) \times (\# \text{ of freshman college jazz students, internationally})$   
>= Annual income of Jamie Abersold, in dollars.

>

>5.  $\text{Infinity} = (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) + (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) + (3 + 6 + 2 + 5) \dots$

>

>6.  $5/4 + 7/4 + 11/4 = \text{drummer's gig.}$

>

>7. If (# of drinks consumed, per musician) > (# of drinks comped by club), then unrest will prevail unless (cost per drink) < 1/20 (pay for gig).

>

>8. 1 up tempo tune + 1 rushing drummer +  $x$  (double lattes) =  $x$  (fights among horn players to solo first).

>

>9. 1 ballad + 1 dragging drummer +  $x$ (Percocets) = 1 cleared house, where  $x$  is proportional to the speed at which the room empties.

>

>10. 2 (diddles) = paradiddle

>

>11. Jam session + eighth -note rest = missed opportunity.

- >
- >13.  $\{(New + York) \text{ squared} - (NewNew + YorkYork + YorkNew) + New York + 2(Ride + Sally) - Sally\}$  divided by (less than five seconds) = medley  
>from hell.
- >
- >14.  $(1/\text{vocalist's experience in years}) \times (\#\text{number of beats per measure})$   
> $x 32 = \#\text{ of unintended modulations} + \text{skipped beats, per chorus.}$
- >
- >15. If  $x = \text{piano's deviance from being in tune}$ ,  $y = \text{volume level of drummer}$ ,  $z = \text{length of gig}$ , and  $d = \text{number of drinks consumed by pianist on break}$ , then  $(d)(xyz/\text{pay of the gig in dollars})$  predicts the  
>probability of pianist urinating in the instrument.
- >
- >16. "Vow of Poverty" theorem: If  $\#\text{ people in audience} < \#\text{ of musicians on bandstand}$ , then  $\text{pay per musician} < \text{one individual cover charge.}$
- >
- >17. "Bass" theorem: A musician's IQ is inversely proportional to the  
>size of his/her instrument, and directly related to the register of the  
>instrument.
- >
- >18. "Rule of One" theorem:  $(\text{Universe of jazz vocalists}) \vee (\#\text{ of jazz vocalists who sing "Summertime"}) = 1 = \text{rank of "Summertime" among tunes most despised by instrumentalists.}$
- >
- >19. "Devil's Music" theorem: Smooth Jazz = square root of all evil.
- >
- >20. "Two Americas" Buffet theorem: Fresh salmon/flaccid spanakopita +  
>prime rib/limp egg rolls + jumbo shrimp/soggy chicken fingers = high  
>society gig/Elks club gig.
- >
- >21. How much should a gig pay, based on the following conditions: drive  
>90 miles outside of town through pouring rain; set up two hours in  
>advance; load in through slimy kitchen accessed by treacherous outdoor  
>staircase; and play four hours of continuous crappy dance favorites for  
  
>the above gig for 1/3 your worth, a college student offers to play the  
  
>-looking. The client has a tin ear. Who will get the job? Why do you  
>bother practicing?
- >
- >22. If a trumpet player counts off a tune in 4/4 time at  $mm = 180$ , and  
>the drummer slows it down at a constant rate of deceleration over 8  
>measures to  $mm = 150$ , does the pianist still suck?
- >
- >23. If a bassist plays a root, a pianist superimposes a major seventh  
>chord built on the fifth, and a saxophonist plays the 13th, will  
>attractive women notice? Will the drummer?
- >

>24. If a successful attorney earns 3x as much as a successful musician,  
>but the musician believes his work is 4x as fulfilling, who actually has  
>larger genitalia?

>

>25. Your trio is set up in a perfect equilateral triangle. A singer  
>sets up exactly in the middle. Will the three of you be divided against  
>the singer or against one another?

>

>26. If (% of Americans who like jazz) = (% of Americans who like chain  
>saw sculptures), what is America's most important indigenous art form?

---