



COURSE SUMMARY

Jazz Improv I: Jazz Standard Fundamentals

Overview

This is a basic course on jazz improvisation. It is designed for the musician who plays an instrument at least at a moderate level, but who is interested in learning basic improvisation skills. This is a good place to start if the student has previous experience in jazz improvisation. This course is repertoire-based and covers basic application of improvisation concepts on compositions common to the jazz canon: Autumn Leaves, Mack The Knife, Song For My Father, and Bag's Groove. Through videoconferencing, live chat rooms, and email, the instructor will be able to personally assist each student with the material. PDF worksheets and pre-recorded video lectures will be distributed to the class and readily available for download.

Note regarding pacing and workflow

For those who cannot attend regularly, an online class is an ideal learning solution. All material for all weeks will be available at the beginning of the class cycle. Assignments can be completed and submitted at any time. Choose your own study hours and work at your own pace, if you desire.

Topic 1 - Autumn Leaves ("A" section)

Learn to solo in real time through the first 8 measures of the jazz classic "Autumn Leaves." Concepts covered will include basic chord function, key centers, melodic and harmonic targets, and basic voice-leading exercises. Improv track: Autumn Leaves "A" section in G minor

Topic 2 - Mack The Knife (melody)

Learn to solo on the Kurt Weill classic "Mack The Knife." Concepts introduced include compositional analysis, basic melodic construction, and basic phrasing. Improv track: Mack The Knife in B-flat major

Topic 3 - Mack The Knife (melody and harmony)

Learn to solo on the Kurt Weill classic "Mack The Knife." New concepts introduced include super scales and extended phrase lengths. Improv track: Mack The Knife in B-flat major

Topic 4 - Song For My Father (first 8 measures)

Learn to solo on the Horace Silver's "Song For My Father." Concepts include blues scale soloing, solo breaks, and interchanging modes. Improv track: Song For My Father (first 8 measures) in F minor

Topic 5 - Song For My Father (entire song)

Continued study of Horace Silver's "Song For My Father." Concepts include blues scale soloing, solo breaks, and interchanging modes. Improv track: Song For My Father in F minor

Topic 6 - Autumn Leaves (measures 27-28)

In depth study of how to solo over measures 27-28 of "Autumn Leaves," a notorious danger zone for improvisers. Concepts covered include bebop lines, chord substitutions, and harmonic superimpositions. Improv track: Autumn Leaves in G minor (measures 27-30) in G minor

Topic 7 - Autumn Leaves (entire song)

Learn to solo in real time over the entire 32-measure form of the jazz classic "Autumn Leaves." Concepts covered will include basic chord function, key centers, melodic and harmonic targets, and basic voice-leading exercises. Improv track: Autumn Leaves in G minor

Topic 8 - Blues in F: Bag's Groove (entire song)

Learn to improvise over the 12-bar blues classic "Bag's Groove." Initial concepts covered will include basic use of the blues and pentatonic scales to construct a successful jazz solo and bass line construction. Improv track: Bag's Groove in F major

Topic 9 - Blues in F: Bag's Groove (entire song)

Continued study of the 12-bar blues classic "Bag's Groove." Concepts covered will include interchanging blues scales with chord-specific melodic fragments. Improv track: Bag's Groove in F major

Topic 10 - Final study: Changing parameters in improvisation

What happens when the sound of the song changes? Jazz musicians on the bandstand see parameters constantly change. Sometimes the song is in a new key, or the instrumentation suddenly changes from one performance to the next. In this lesson, we will explore a change of tempo with each song previously studied. Improv tracks: Autumn Leaves, Mack The Knife, Song For My Father, Bag's Groove.

Note: Course details subject to change at the discretion of the instructor.



NYJATM
NEW YORK JAZZ ACADEMY