



COURSE SUMMARY

Jazz Improv II: Jazz standards

Overview

This is an intermediate level course on jazz improvisation. It is designed for the musician who plays an instrument at least at a proficient level, but who is interested in developing more advanced improvisation skills. This is a good place to start if the student has significant experience in jazz improvisation. This course is repertoire-based and covers basic application of improvisation concepts on compositions common to the jazz canon: Maiden Voyage, Blue Bossa, On A Clear Day, and Billie's Bounce. 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 - Maiden Voyage ("A" section)

Learn to solo in real time through the first 16 measures of the jazz classic "Maiden Voyage." Concepts covered will include basic chord function, modal centers, melodic and harmonic targets, and basic voice-leading exercises. Improv track: Maiden Voyage "A" section in D

Topic 2 - Maiden Voyage (entire song)

Learn to solo in real time through the entire form of the jazz classic "Maiden Voyage." Concepts covered will include motivic development and pacing, harmonic development of the bridge, keeping the form. Improv track: Maiden Voyage "A" section in D

Topic 3 - Blue Bossa (first 8 measures)

Learn to solo on the first 8 measures of Kenny Dorham's "Blue Bossa." Concepts covered include a continued study of voice-leading and target notes, fundamental stylistic details of bossa nova and general straight-8th grooves. Improv track: Blue Bossa (first 8 measures) in C minor

Topic 4 - Blue Bossa (entire song)

Learn to solo over the entire 16-measure form of Kenny Dorham's "Blue Bossa." Concepts covered include a continued study of voice-leading and target notes, fundamental stylistic details of bossa nova and general straight-8th grooves, and in-depth harmonic study of the "B" section of the form. Improv track: Blue Bossa in C minor

Topic 5 - Melodic Superimposition Fundamentals

The course breaks from a repertoire specific lesson to address the specifics of melodic superimposition--where the line played by the soloist implies a harmony other than the harmony played by the rhythm section. Historical examples will be addressed, including lines by Dexter Gordon, Sonny Stitt, Joe Henderson, Chet Baker, and Bill Evans.

Topic 6 - On A Clear Day ("A" section)

Learn to solo over the classic standard "On A Clear Day." Concepts covered include motivic development, chord connection, and melodic superimposition. Improv track: On A Clear Day (first 16 measures) in F major

Topic 7 - On A Clear Day (entire song)

Continued study of the classic standard "On A Clear Day." Concepts covered include advanced concepts of melodic superimposition. Improv track: On A Clear Day in F major

Topic 8 - Blues in F: Billie's Bounce (entire song)

Learn to improvise over Charlie Parker's "Billie's Bounce," a 12-bar bebop blues classic. Initial concepts covered will include concepts in motivic development, voice-leading, and rhythmic structure. Improv track: Billie's Bounce in F major

Topic 9 - Blues in F: Billie's Bounce (entire song)

Continued study of Charlie Parker's "Billie's Bounce." Concepts covered will include interchanging blues scales with chord-specific melodic fragments and application of specific bebop vocabulary. Improv track: Billie's Bounce 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 key with two songs previously studied. Improv tracks: On A Clear Day, Billie's Bounce.

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



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