



COURSE SUMMARY: Introduction to Improvisation and Jazz Theory

Overview

Introduction to Improvisation and Jazz Theory moves far beyond jazz nomenclature and helps the user understand and apply core concepts in bebop and classic jazz. Become a much better improviser by taking this class. Online videos (over 8 hours of video instruction), interactive quizzes, PDF worksheets and lecture notes will be distributed to the class and readily available for download. You have two options for registering: Full online course content only, or course content plus live tutorial sessions.

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

Topics: The staff and clefs, basic note reading.

Week 2

Topics: The major scale and its construction.

Week 3

Topics: Building triads in a major key. What are they and why do we care?

Week 4

Topics: Adding a seventh to triads – ii7 and V7

Week 5

Topics: ii7 – V7 – I The holy trinity progression and its uses.

Week 6

Topics: Melodic Devices and Simple Chord Progressions (including tetrachords, leading tones and enclosures).

Week 7

Topics: The 12-Bar Blues and how to navigate it, voice leading, and pentatonics.

Week 8

Topics: Compound Melody and Jazz Line, understanding the secret of great bebop lines.

Week 9

Topics: Minor scales and their uses, moving beyond the major scale

Week 10

Topics: Melodic Minor and Symmetrical scales, moving past tonality.

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

