

IMPROVISATION LESSONS

- I. **Transcribe Heads/Solos**
 - 1) sing with CD,
 - 2) sing w/out CD,
 - 3) play from your head,
 - 4) polish with CD,
 - 5) optional – notate
- II. **Scales**
- III. **Chords**
- IV. **Jazz Etudes/Transcriptions**
- V. **Learn Tunes**
 - Memorize head and changes
 - Key Centering
 - Prep for Improv.
- VI. **Systematic Ear Training - at piano, or computer**
- VII. **Listening/New Players**
- VIII. **Improv. Assignments**
- IX. **Improv. Method Books/Patterns**

SCALES – Metronome – Play/Sing/Play – 15 Keys

- 1. **Chromatic** (Use correct fingerings)
- 2. **Major** (# = F C G D A E B = b)
- 3. **Major Pentatonic** (1, 2, 3, 5, 6)
- 4. **Blues** (1,b3, 4, b5, 5, b7)
- 5. **Mixolydian** (Major scale w/ flat 7)
- 6. **Dorian** (Down whole-step to find scale)
- 7. **Minor Pentatonic** (1, b3, 4, 5, b7)
- 8. **Locrian** (Up half-step to find scale)
- 9. **Aeolian** (Natural minor = Up 3 half-steps to find scale)
- 10. **Harmonic Minor** (Aeolian w/ raised 7)
- 11. **Ascending Melodic Minor** (Major scale w/ lowered 3)
- 12. **BeBop Scale** (Mixolydian w/ added Major 7)
- 13. **Lydian** (Major scale w/ raised 4)
- 14. **Lydian Dominant** (Mixolydian w/ raised 4)
- 15. **Whole Tone** (All whole-steps = 6 notes)
- 16. **Diminished** (W, 1/2, W, 1/2, etc. = 8 notes)
- 17. **Auxiliary Diminished** (1/2, W, 1/2, W, etc. = 8 notes)
- 18. **Super Locrian** (7th mode of Melodic minor)
- 19. **Phrygian** (Down 4 half-steps to find scale)

CHORDS – Metronome – Play/Sing/Play – 15 Keys

1. Major & Minor Triads. Make –up own patterns
2. Diminished & Augmented Triads. Make-up own patterns
3. Major Seventh
4. Seventh
5. Minor Seventh
6. Minor Seven Flat Five
7. Diminished Seventh
8. Augmented Seventh
9. Minor/Major Seventh
10. Sus 7
11. Major 9
12. Minor 9
13. Seventh (9)
14. Seventh (b9)
15. Seventh (#9)
16. Major 9 (#11)
17. Seventh (#11)
18. Minor 11
19. Major 13 (#11)

“Collapse Chords” (shown in C. Do 15 keys):

CM7	C7	Cmin7	Cmin7(b5)	Cdim7
7	-7	-7	-7	- -7
5	5	5	-5	-5
3	3	-3	-3	-3
1	1	1	1	1

Also:

C Maj7(#5)	C -Maj7	C7sus
7	7	-7
+5	5	5
3	-3	4
1	1	1