

Steps To Improvisation

Clinic presented by
Joe Covill, Director of Bands
Lincoln Middle School – Pullman Washington

Joe Covill
Director of Bands
Lincoln Middle School
315 SE Crestview
Pullman, Washington 99163
www.lmsmusic.org
509.334.3411 - phone
509.334.9678 - fax

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Rob Tapper, Director of Jazz Activities
Eastern Washington University

STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

LET'S USE THE FOLLOWING CHORD PROGRESSION. (1,6,2,5)

C INSTRUMENTS

FLUTE, OBOE, TROMBONE, PIANO, VIBES, BASS

Musical staff for C instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are BbMA7, G7, CMIN7, and F7. The staff contains rhythmic slashes for improvisation.

Bb INSTRUMENTS

CLARINET, TRUMPET, TENOR

Musical staff for Bb instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are CMAs7, A7, DMIN7, and G7. The staff contains rhythmic slashes for improvisation.

Eb INSTRUMENTS

ALTO SAX, BARITONE SAX

Musical staff for Eb instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are GMAs7, D7, AMIN7, and D7. The staff contains rhythmic slashes for improvisation.

STEP 1 - GETTING ACQUAINTED

1) PLAY ROOTS - 2) ADD RHYTHMS (CHARLESTON)

Musical staff for C instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are BbMA7, G7, CMIN7, and F7. The staff shows the root notes of each chord: Bb, G, C, and F.

Musical staff for Bb instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are CMAs7, A7, DMIN7, and G7. The staff shows the root notes of each chord: C, A, D, and G.

Musical staff for Eb instruments. The staff is in C major with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The chords are GMAs7, E7, AMIN7, and D7. The staff shows the root notes of each chord: G, E, A, and D.

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STEP 2 - EQUAL & OPPOSITE
1) DIGITAL PATTERN (1,2,1,2)

C

Musical staff for C major key, digital pattern (1,2,1,2). Chords: B \flat MA7, G7, CMIN7, F7.

B \flat

Musical staff for B \flat major key, digital pattern (1,2,1,2). Chords: CMA7, A7, DMIN7, G7.

E \flat

Musical staff for E \flat major key, digital pattern (1,2,1,2). Chords: GMA7, E7, AMIN7, D7.

2) REVERSE DIGITAL PATTERN (2,1,2,1)

C

Musical staff for C major key, reverse digital pattern (2,1,2,1). Chords: B \flat MA7, G7, CMIN7, F7.

B \flat

Musical staff for B \flat major key, reverse digital pattern (2,1,2,1). Chords: CMA7, A7, DMIN7, G7.

E \flat

Musical staff for E \flat major key, reverse digital pattern (2,1,2,1). Chords: GMA7, E7, AMIN7, D7.

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STEP 3A - SCALES ARE GOOD
DIATONIC - (1-5) - 1,2,3,4,5

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEP 3B - SCALES ARE GOOD - EQUAL & OPPOSITE
DIATONIC - (5-1) - 5,4,3,2,1

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

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STEP 4A - TRIADS ARE EASY
PLAY TRIADS (ASCENDING)

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEP 4B - TRIADS ARE EASY?
PLAY TRIADS (DESCENDING)

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

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STEP 5A - CHROMATIC APPROACH

PLAY ROOT ON BEAT 'ONE'. REST FOR TWO BEATS AND PLAY 1/2 STEP APPROACH FROM BELOW TO THE NEXT ROOT ON BEAT 'FOUR'.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEP 5B - CHROMATIC APPROACH

PLAY ROOT ON BEAT 'ONE'. REST FOR TWO BEATS AND PLAY 1/2 STEP APPROACH FROM ABOVE TO THE NEXT ROOT ON BEAT 'FOUR'.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

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STEP 6A - SOUNDING MATURE
PLAY TRIAD WITH 1/2 STEP APPROACH FROM BELOW ON BEAT 'FOUR'.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEP 6B - SOUNDING MATURE
PLAY TRIAD WITH 1/2 STEP APPROACH FROM ABOVE ON BEAT 'FOUR'.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

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STEP 7 - RHYTHM WINS!
PLAY ASCENDING TRIADS WITH NEW RHYTHM.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 Cmin7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 Dmin7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 Amin7 D7

STEP 7B - RHYTHM WINS!
PLAY DESCENDING TRIADS WITH NEW RHYTHM.

C

B \flat MA7 G7 Cmin7 F7

B \flat

CMA7 A7 Dmin7 G7

E \flat

GMA7 E7 Amin7 D7

STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

LET'S USE THE FOLLOWING CHORD PROGRESSION. (1,6,2,5)

STEP 7c - WOW, THIS IS KIND OF COOL!
PLAY ASCENDING TRIADS WITH NEW RHYTHM.

C

B \flat Maj7 G7 Cmin7 F7

B \flat

CMaj7 A7 Dmin7 G7

E \flat

GMaj7 E7 Amin7 D7

STEP 7d - WOW, THIS IS STILL KIND OF COOL!
PLAY DESCENDING TRIADS WITH NEW RHYTHM.

C

B \flat Maj7 G7 Cmin7 F7

B \flat

CMaj7 A7 Dmin7 G7

E \flat

GMaj7 E7 Amin7 D7

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STEP 8A - GOAL NOTES

PLAY 5,4,3,2 OF THE GOAL CHORD IN THE PRECEDING MEASURE TO THE GOAL CHORD 'ROOT' (1).

C

BbMA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

Bb

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

Eb

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

STEP 8B - GOAL NOTES

PLAY 7,6,5,4 OF THE GOAL CHORD IN THE PRECEDING MEASURE TO THE GOAL CHORD 'THIRD'.

C

BbMA7 G7 CMIN7 F7

Bb

CMA7 A7 DMIN7 G7

Eb

GMA7 E7 AMIN7 D7

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STEP 9A - HOWDY NEIGHBOR!

PLAY 5,4,3, HALF STEP BELOW OF THE GOAL CHORD IN THE PRECEDING MEASURE TO THE GOAL CHORD 'ROOT' (4).

C



Bb



Eb



STEP 9B - GOAL NOTES

PLAY 7,6,5, HALF STEP ABOVE OF THE GOAL CHORD IN THE PRECEDING MEASURE TO THE GOAL CHORD 'THIRD'.

C



Bb



Eb



STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

LET'S USE THE FOLLOWING CHORD PROGRESSION. (2,5,1)

STEP 10 - SEQUENCE

PLAY A SHORT PHRASE AND TRANSPOSE TO THE NEW CHORD.

C C^{MIN7} F7 B^bM^{MA7} B^bM^{MA7}

Bb D^{MIN7} G7 C^{MA7} C^{MA7}

Eb A^{MIN7} D7 G^{MA7} G^{MA7}

STEP 10B - SOUNDING LIKE A PRO

2-5 LICK

C C^{MIN7} F7 B^bM^{MA7} B^bM^{MA7}

Bb D^{MIN7} G7 C^{MA7} C^{MA7}

Eb A^{MIN7} D7 G^{MA7} G^{MA7}

STEPS TO IMPROVISATION

LET'S USE THE FOLLOWING CHORD PROGRESSION. (2,5,1)

STEP 10c - HERE'S THAT RHYTHM THING AGAIN.
2-5 LICK WITH RHYTHMIC VARIATION.

C

C MIN7 F7 Bb MA7 Bb MA7

Bb

D MIN7 G7 C MA7 C MA7

Eb

A MIN7 D7 G MA7 G MA7

HELPFUL HINTS:

> LISTEN TO PROFESSIONALS

IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SOUND LIKE, HOW DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE DOING IT RIGHT?

> KEEP IT SIMPLE

DON'T TRY TO SOUND LIKE YOU KNOW MORE THAN YOU DO.

> LEARN BASIC JAZZ PIANO SKILLS

THIS WILL HELP EVEN IF YOU DON'T PLAY THE PIANO.

> WHEN IN DOUBT, ADD RHYTHMS!

> USE A METRONOME TO HELP DEVELOP GOOD, CONSISTENT TIME.

> TRANSCRIBE SIMPLE LICKS.