

# Improvisation Workshop

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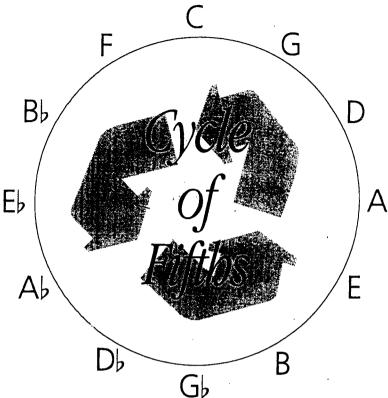
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### The Cycle of Fifths

Figure 2-20



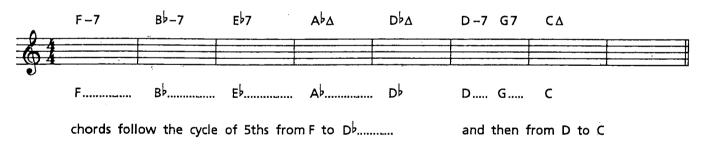
o over the II-V-I progressions in every key and memorize them. When they learn something in every key, most jazz musicians use the cycle of fifths, as shown in figure 2-20.13

The cycle of fifths is an arrangement of all 12 notes of the chromatic scale, each note a 5th lower than the preceding one. As you go around the cycle, think of each note as representing a key, the key you're going to practice in next. Start with the key of C at the top of the circle, and move *counterclockwise* through the keys of F, Bb, Eb, and so on.<sup>14</sup>

You should use the cycle when you practice because it approximates real life. Most chord movement within tunes follows portions of the cycle. For instance, the roots of a II-V-I progression follow the cycle. In the key of C, the roots of the II-V-I (D-7, G7, GA) are D, G, and C, which follow each other counterclockwise around the cycle. In F, the roots of the II-V-I (G-7, C7, FA) are G, C, and F, and they, too, follow each other around the cycle.

**Figure 2-21** shows the changes for the first few bars of Jerome Kern's "All The Things You Are." Notice how the roots of the chords form fragments from around the cycle of 5ths.

Figure 2-21



<sup>13</sup> The cycle of fifths is also know as "the circle of fourths."

<sup>14</sup> Classical musicians are often taught the cycle clockwise. Jazz musicians prefer using the cycle counterclockwise because the movement from note to note (C, F, Bb, and so on), follows the roots of the II-V-I progression (as in C-7, F7, BbΔ).

Figure 3-3

#### **Major Scale Harmony**

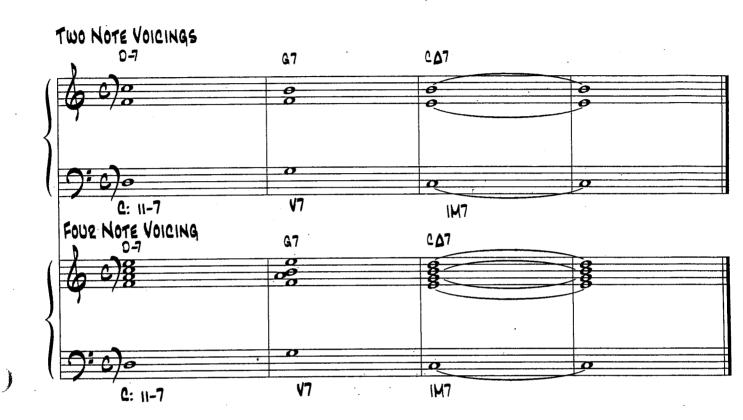


Figure 3-63

#### **Melodic Minor Scale Harmony**



## BASIC PIANO VOICING - 11-7, V7, IM7 PROGRESSION



#### Scale/Chord Routine

- 1. Major Scale/Major triad (2 octaves up & down)
- 2. pure minor/minor triad (2 octaves up & down)
- 3. harmonic minor/minor-major 7 (1,3,5,7,9 up & down)
- 4. melodic minor/minor triad (1,3,5,6,7, up & down)
- 5. jazz minor/minor 6,9 (1,3,5,6,9, up & down)
- 6. dorian mode/minor 7 (1,3,5,7,9,11,13 up & down)
- 7. phrygian mode/susb9 (1,b9,4,5,7, up & down)
- 8. Lydian Mode/Major 7#11 (1,3,5,7,9,11,13 up & down)
- 9. Mixolydian Mode/ Dominant 7 (1,3,5,7,9, up & down)
- 10. locrian mode/half-diminished 7 (1,3,5,7 up & down)
- 11. phrygian #6/susb9 (1,b9,4,5,7 up & down)
- 12. Lydian Augmented/Major 7#5 (1,3,5,7 2 octaves up & down)
- 13. Lydian Dominant/Dominant 7#11 (1,3,5,7,9,11,13 up & down)
- 14. locrian #2/half-diminished (1,3,5,7,9 up & down)
- 15. Altered/Altered Dominant (1,b9,3,#5,7 #9 up & down)
- 16. Whole Tone/Augmented Triad (2 octaves up & down)
- 17. ½-whole Diminished/Dominant 7b9 (1,b9,3,5,7 up & down)
- 18. whole-1/2 diminished/diminished (1,3,5,7, 2 octaves up & down)

#### **Jazz Improvisation - Intellect & Intuition**

#### Intellect

- I. Listen to Recordings Study Scores
- II. Learn Melody of the tune. Thread #1
  - A. Memorize play it around the circle of fifths
  - **B.** Paraphrase the melody
  - C. Play on piano melody in right hand, roots of chords in left hand
  - D. Comp on piano while singing melody
  - E. Walk a bass line while singing melody
- III. Root movement Thread #2
  - A. Analyze chord changes for key areas and chord function
  - **B.** Memorize root movement
- IV. Work guide tone lines through changes
  - A. Start on 3rd of first chord & continue playing closest 3rd or 7th through the changes Thread #3
  - B. Start on 7th of first chord & continue playing closest 3rd or 7th through the changes Thread #4
- V. Practice Scales & Arpeggios of Chord changes
- VI. Use guide tones lines and melodic fragments through the changes connect with scales and arpeggio fragments; use sequence
- VII. Rhythmic playing
  - A. Make a glossary of jazz rhythms
    - 1. many idiomatic rhythms start on the up beat and/or end on the up beat
    - 2. 8th note lines punctuated by 8th note triplets
  - B. Pick two or three specific rhythms and use them for one chorus
  - C. Practice playing the tune w/ metronome on beats 2 & 4 tap your foot to beats 2 & 4 feel the groove
- VIII. Linear playing
  - A. Play whole notes through changes
  - B. Continue exercise by playing half notes, quarter notes, quarter note triplets, 8th notes, 8th note triplets & 16th notes through changes
  - C. Improvise, using each of these divisions as your basis
- IX. Phrasing
  - A. Map out a phrasing scheme over one chorus leave space
  - B. Practice finishing phrases w/ specific melodic shape or rhythm start next phrase with that same figure
  - C. Relate your phrasing to language use punctuation marks and paragraph divisions
  - D. Rule of Three Develop ideas is groups of 3 repetitions or sequences.

#### **Intuition**

- I. Listen to Recordings All Kinds of Music
- II. Play Free every day practice "getting out of the way"
- III. Look for a Message to convey, Story to tell Use your Heart as well as your Head
  - A. Lyrics, title of tune, history behind the tune, original setting
  - **B.** Personal experience
- IV. Be aware of form & shape of tune
- V. Listen closely to previous solos for inspiration and to give your solo context
- VI. Listen to the rhythm section for ideas know their roles
  - A. Leave some space between phrases so you can hear what the rhythm section is doing
- VII. Work to achieve a balance between unity and variety.
  - A. Develop your melodic & rhythmic ideas Unity
    - 1. Repetition
    - 2. Sequence
    - 3. Inversion
    - 4. Rhythmic change
    - 5. Imitation
  - **B.** Give shape to solos Variety
    - 1. Dynamics
    - 2. Range
    - 3. Rate of Activity
    - 4. Variety of Articulation
    - 5. Affects Drama, Staging, Echoing etc.

#### VIII. Compose

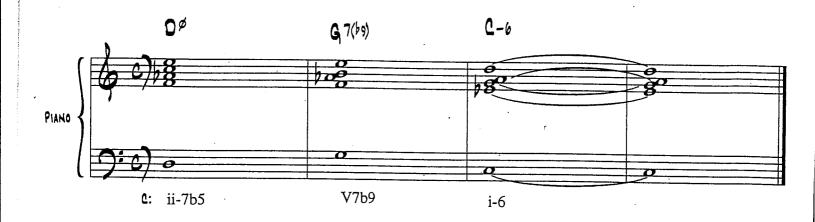
IX. Read great literature, study great works of art etc.; Observe life closely - be curious & interested in many things

You obtain creative freedom through discipline - your intuition is free to create when your intellect has been used to gather and store the information necessary to create.

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# JA22 THEORY

MINOR II, V, I PIANO VOICINGS



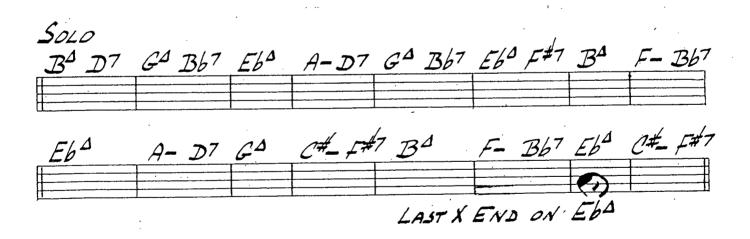
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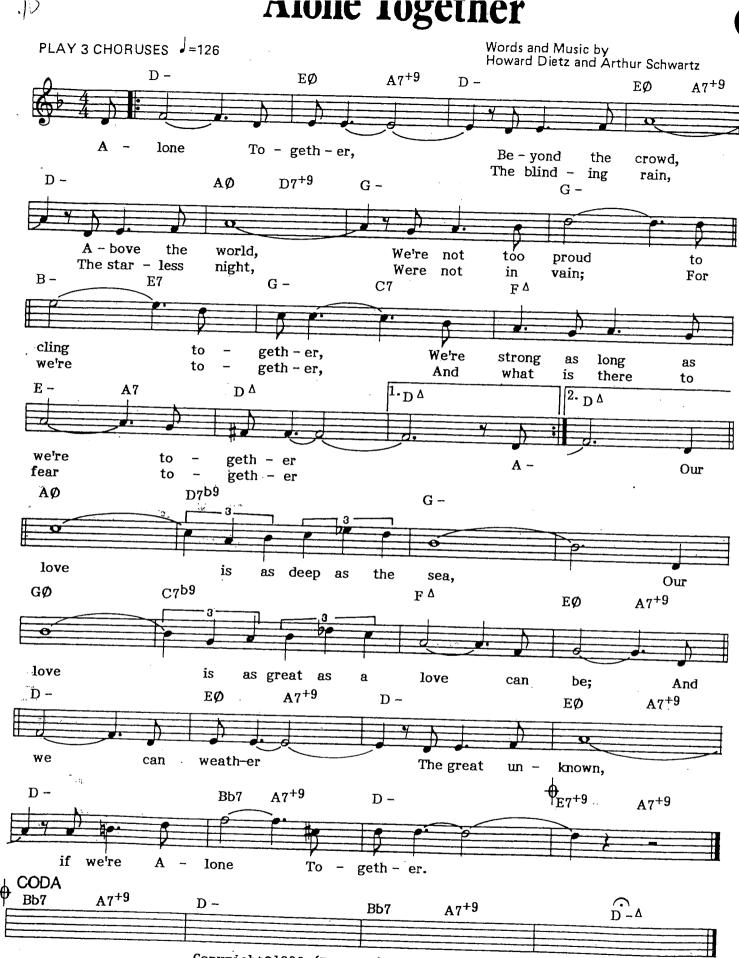


Slow Version J = 224, Play 14 Choruses
Faster Version J = 308, Play 19 Choruses





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## What's New?





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# What Is This Thing Called Love?



# **Autumn Leaves**

PLAY 4 CHORUSES (J=100)

By Joseph Kosma & Johnny Mei

3rds and 7ths are very important. This song tends to hang around G-. Look for common tones throughout. Good notes to begin a phrase with are 1, 3 and 5 of the chord/scale.

Famous Recording: Cannonball Adderley (Blue Note BST-81595/B22-446338)



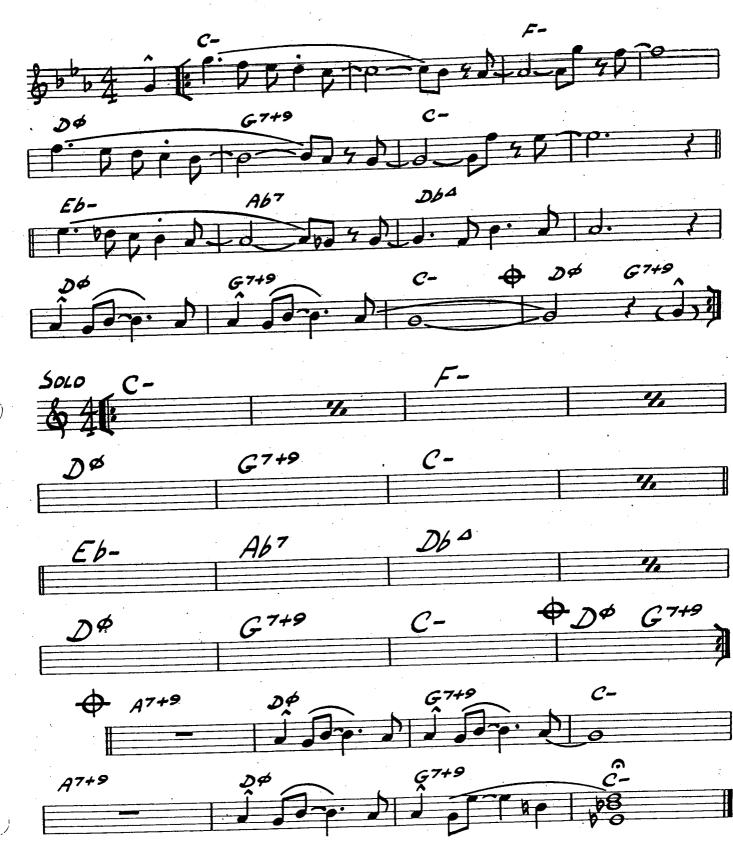


## **Blue Bossa**

SIDE 4/TRACK 1 PLAY 14 CHORUSES

J=208

By KENNY DORHA



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## 5. Summertime



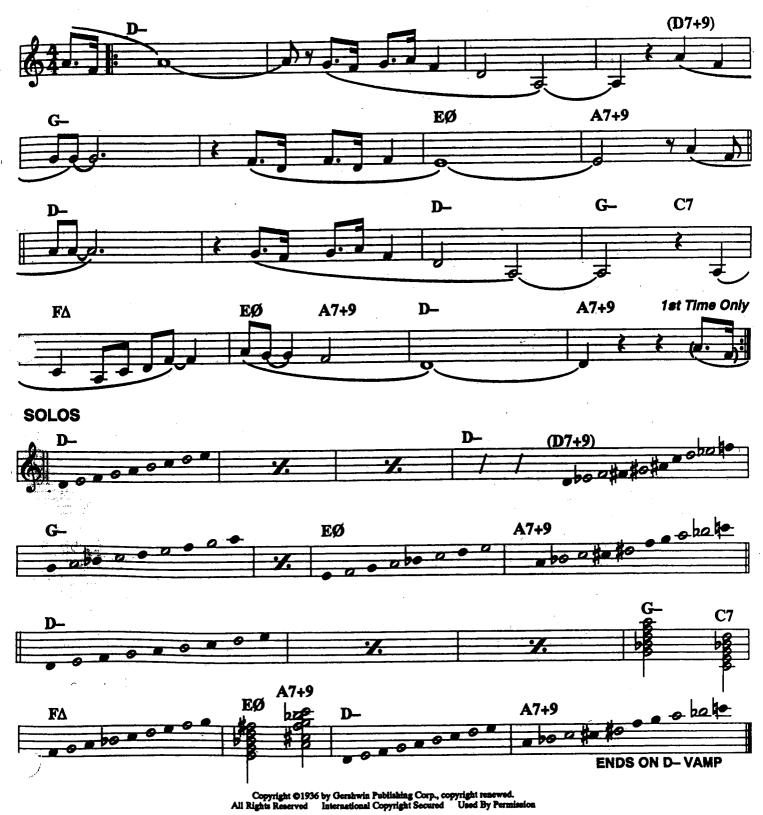
PLAY 9 CHORUSES ( ] = 108)

By DuBose Hayward & George Gershwin

This song really employs only 3 scales. Since it is in a minor key, melodies seem to come easily.

Work on connecting the A7+9 to the D- smoothly.

Famous Recording: John Coltrane (Atlantic SD-1361/SD-1361-2)



### 50 ESSENTIAL TUNES FOR JAM SESSION SITUATIONS

Title	TION OF SEASON S	
	Usual Style	Usual Key(s)
1. All the Things You Are	Medium Swing	Ab
2. Autumn Leaves	Medium Swing	e-,g-
3. Have You Met Miss Jones?		F
4. I Love You		F
5. In a Mellow Tone		Ab
6. Just Friends	"	G, F
7. Nardis		e-
8. Night and Day	, "	C ·
9. Solar		c-
10. Stella by Starlight	"	Bb
11. Take the A Train	44	C
12. There is No Greater Love	•	Bb
13. Days of Wine and Roses		F
14. Yesterdays	"	d-
15. Well You Needn't	"	F
16. Satin Doll	66	C .
17. On a Clear Day	"	G
18. There Will Never Be Another You	. "	Eb
19. Invitation	"	C-
20. Four		Eb
21. Nica's Dream	Latin/Swing	Bb-
22. Green Dolphin Street	Latin/Swing	C, Eb
23. I'll Remember April	Latin/Swing	G G
24. A Night in Tunisia	Latin/Swing	d-
25. All Blues (Blues)	3/4;6/8	G
26. Footprints	3/4;6/8	C-
27. Blue Bossa	Latin	_
28. Girl from Ipanema	Latin	C-
29. Maiden Voyage		F
30. Recorda-me	Latin	Dsus
31. Cherokee	Latin	a-
· ·	Up Tempo	Bb
32. Mr P.C. (Blues)	Up Tempo	.C
33. Softly as in a Morning Sunrise	Up Tempo	C-
34. So What/ Impressions	Up Tempo	d-
35. The Song is You	Up Tempo	C
36. Oleo (Rhythm)	Up Tempo	Bb
37. Tune Up	Up Tempo	D
38. What is This Thing Called Love	Up Tempo	C
39. Straight No Chaser	Blues	F
40. Sonny Moon For Two	Blues	Bb
41. Tenor Madness	Blues	Bb
42. Now's the Time	Blues	F
43. C Jam Blues	Blues	C
44. Body and Soul	Ballad	Db
45. Here's that Rainy Day	Ballad	F
46. In a Sentimental Mood	Ballad	F
47. Misty	Ballad	Eb
48. My Funny Valentine	Ballad	c-
49. 'Round Midnight	Ballad	eb-
50. What's New?	Ballad	С

### **Resource Materials for Jazz Improvisation**

- 1. The Jazz Theory Book by Mark Levine, Sher Music Co.
- 2. Metaphors for the Musician by Randy Halberstadt, Sher Music Co.
- 3. Jazz Improvisation: The Goal Note Method by Shelton Berg, Lou Fischer Music Publishing
- 4. The Jazz Language by Dan Haerle, Alfred Music Publishing
- 5. Improvising Jazz by Jerry Coker, Simon & Schuster
- 6. Voicings for Jazz Keyboard by Frank Mantooth, Hal Leonard Publishing Corporation
- 7. Jazz Arranging Techniques by Gary Lindsay, Staff Art Publishing
- 8. Effortless Mastery by Kenny Werner, Jamey Aebersold Jazz

#### **Music Composition – How To Get Started**

- I. Be curious spend some time just messing around
  - A. Keep a log of sounds you come across that you like
- II. Make some preliminary decisions
  - A. Message, picture, story, feeling, mood
  - B. Form
  - C. Rhythmic feel
  - **D.** Instrumentation
- III. Composing melodies
  - A. Melodic cells
  - **B.** Developmental techniques
    - 1. Repetition
    - 2. Sequence
    - 3. Rhythmic change
    - 4. Expansion & contraction of intervals
    - 5. Expansion & contraction of rhythmic values
    - 6. Dynamics, effects, imitation, etc.
  - C. Melodic shape
    - 1. Range
    - 2. Rate of activity
    - 3. Dynamics
  - D. Question & Answer/Subject & Predicate
- **IV. Composing Chord Progressions** 
  - A. Root movement/Logic
    - 1. Down a P5, whole steps, half steps, up & down a minor 3<sup>rd</sup>, everything else
  - B. Harmonic rhythm
  - C. Coloring the melody
- V. Listen in an analytical manner
  - A. Form
  - B. Melodic line
  - C. Chord progression
  - D. Orchestration
- VI. Analyze tunes
  - A. Form
  - **B.** Melody
  - C. Harmony
- VII. Educate yourself
  - A. Read books about great composers/musicians & great books in general
  - B. Study other art forms art, theatre, ballet etc.
  - C. Observe life think of yourself as a writer