

Lesson 3

Exercises in Improvisation

This lesson will give the student some easy exercises in improvisation. The first exercise uses **major modes** in a II -V- I progression.

1. Practice scales for improv. (all notes are C major scale)

D Dorian G Mixolydian C Ionian

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

II V I

2. Practice scales in horizontal /vertical movement - ascending/descending

(Be sure that 1st beat of every measure is a chord tone ie: a tone that is 1, 3, 5, or 7 of the given chord. This is also called a Target Tone (**TT**)). See more info and definition of target tones in Chapter 26, page 94.

TT TT TT TT

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

3. Simplify Rhythmic Values - using the same scale (Cmajor) create lines and melodies simplifying and varying rhythmic values.

TT TT TT TT

4. Add some chromatic notes -Chromatic Tones (CT)- create 1/2 step approaches to chord tones, and add interest and tension to the lines. Note that approaching chord tones, chromatically or stepwise, are called Approach Tones (**AT**). See Chapter 24, page 68.

TT AT TT AT TT AT TT

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6