Jazz/Rock Improvisation

A Complete Approach to Improvising on both Acoustic and Electronic Keyboards

Bert Konowitz

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Foreword

Improvisation is a skill that can be learned. It is important because it allows the performer to use music to express individual feelings and ideas. Improvising is a natural part of Jazz/Rock playing—it is an exciting skill and a welcome companion to studying and performing all styles of music.

Jazz/Rock Improvisation, Level 2, lets you improvise right from the beginning. It is correlated page-by-page with Alfred's Jazz/Rock Course, Level 2. Though the Improvisation series (Levels 1–4) may be used independently, when used together with the Jazz/Rock Course (Levels 1–4), the pianist has the unique opportunity to become a well-trained jazz/rock musician.

This book is written to be played on either a traditional acoustic piano or an electronic keyboard. At the bottom of each page, suggestions are offered for ways that acoustic and electronic instruments may be used together:

Acoustic Jamming suggestions offer a supportive left-hand accompaniment that may be added by a teacher, a parent who plays piano, or a more experienced student.

Electronic Jamming suggestions offer specific sound and rhythmic backgrounds that may be used when playing on an electronic keyboard. The electronic rhythm backgrounds may also be added as an accompaniment when performing on an acoustic piano.

To Laura, Mark, Paul, Laurie, Adam and Stacey

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Managing editor: Morty Manus Music engraving: Bruce Goldes Cover photography: Jeff Oshiro Cover design: Martha Widmann/Ted Engelbart

Improv Idea #1: Playing with Different Dynamics

IMPROVISATION ("Improv" for short) is a musical skill that enables you to vary the sound of a written piece of music so that it reflects *your* feelings and imagination. Changing the **dynamics** (volume) creates interesting mood changes.

RAINBOWS

The IMPROV Score is a step-by-step guide that will make improvising very easy.



1st time, play the entire piece p. 2nd time, play the entire piece f.



ACOUSTIC JAMMING: Play an octave lower. Coordinate dynamics with student's part.



Improv Idea #4: Creating New Melodies with the G Blues Scale

New melodies can also be created by using the tones of the *5-finger G Blues Scale*.

Retrograde means to play a motif backwards. Using retrograde is another way to create new melodies.



MIRROR IMAGE

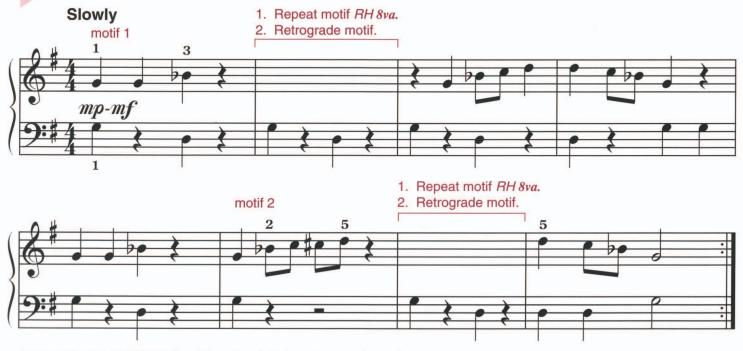
Play as written.



8VA MIRROR IMAGE

IMPROV SCORE

1st time, repeat the motif *RH 8va* at the Improv measures. 2nd time, *retrograde* the motif at the Improv measures.



ACOUSTIC JAMMING: Play the left hand an octave lower.

ELECTRONIC JAMMING:

REGISTER: Distorted Guitar/Percussive Organ

RHYTHM: Rock