

Teach Yourself Chords & Progressions

at the Keyboard

Everything you need to know
to start playing now!

- For acoustic or electronic keyboard
- Teaches all basic and 7th chords
- Includes voicings for jazz, blues and pop
- Shows you how to play along with a combo and use a fake book
- Easy-to-follow instructions that make learning fun

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Other Books in this Series

Teach Yourself to Play the Blues (#14098)

Teach Yourself to Improvise (#16608)

Teach Yourself to Play Jazz (#16897)



Revised Edition

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Introduction to Chord Progressions: The Blues

A **chord progression** is an organized series of changing chords.

The blues progression is a basic jazz progression, generally 12 measures long. It consists of chords built on the first, fourth and fifth steps of the scale and is used in all styles and periods of blues, jazz and rock.

The C Major Blues Progression: Play and memorize

Musical score for a 12-bar blues in C major. The top staff is in 9/4 time and the bottom staff is in 12/8 time. The chords are C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, F, C, G, C. The top staff shows a bass line with eighth-note patterns and the bottom staff shows a bass line with sixteenth-note patterns.

Chasing the Blues Away



Now we add a melody to the C blues progression and we call it the *blues*.

Moderately

1 2

mf

8 8 8 8

1 3 5

5 F 4 C 3 1

1 3 5

9 G F 3 C 5 4

f *mf*

8 8 8 8

1 3 5

In the Style of . . .

Bill Evans

Bill Evans began as a sideman in the Miles Davis Quintet, going on to become one of the most important jazz keyboard players. His original approach to chord voicings had an important impact on the playing of Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea and Keith Jarrett. The Bill Evans sound is created by using chords in the left hand that often do not have the *root* of the chord on the bottom (i.e., step one of a scale

that is related to the chord), as well as by voicing chords with closely spaced tones, known as **tone clusters**.

In "Rainforest," the left hand uses the Bill Evans chord voicing. After learning this piece, experiment with these chord voicings by applying them to other tunes from fake books.

Rainforest



Moderately, in a lyrical manner

1
3
4

1
3
4

4

1
3
4

2

2

7

8

1
3
4