SIX MONTHS TO JAZZ PIANO

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WHY LEARN JAZZ PIANO?

- A. Be able to open any fake book or sheet music with chord symbols and play a tune.
- B. Accompany yourself or another on any type of tune (ballad, swing, Latin)
- C. Understand chord changes better: check lead sheets for accuracy, reharmonize tunes, write intros and endings.
 - D. Use the piano as a tool to compose tunes.
 - E. Use the piano to practice vocal improvisation.
 - F. Get a solo piano/vocal gig.
- G. Become a better-educated singer, instrumentalist or teacher of jazz, with a thorough understanding of the music and the confidence that goes along with it.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

A. Music fundamentals

Know music basics such as key and meter signatures, understanding and counting basic rhythms, intervals, triads, major and minor triads, and so on.

B. Piano chops

There's not much you can do until you have basic facility at the piano. Be able to play all major and minor scales (with at least one hand) up and down one octave, minimum. Be able to play major and minor triads in all keys and use the damper pedal effectively.

C. Commitment and practice

Making a commitment to do something and then following thru on it is very empowering! Write down your commitment to practice jazz piano, tell it to others, and schedule in specific practice times.

MONTH ONE: Jazz Piano 101

A. Chord types (Play each in all keys)





B. Quick Fix Voicing



C. ETUDE: (Quick fix voicings with inversions for better voice leading)



• ALL MUSICAL EXAMPLES TAKEN FROM "JAZZ PIANO HANDBOOK" (ALFRED PUBLISHING) AND USED WITH PERMISSION •

MONTH TWO: Position #1 (P1)

A. Voicing P1 (Play each in all keys)



B. Pattern P1 (Play each in all keys)





(Practice them down whole steps – key of F, key of Eb, key of Db, and so on:)



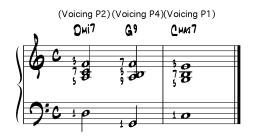
C. ETUDE: (P1) Music by JOHNNY MANDEL Words by JOHNNY MERCER "Emily" Key of Eb Major THE CMI7 FM17 869 8: MU2 -MUE-ING SOUND MAY. SIL - VER BELLS Key of Eb Major Key of Ab Major Key of C Major Bbui7 EbMAS7 Eb9 Abmas 7 OMI7 G9 CMAS7

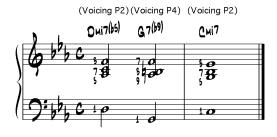
MONTH THREE: Position #2 (P2)

A. Voicing P2 (Play each in all keys)



B. Pattern P2 (Play each in all keys, down whole steps as with Pattern P1)



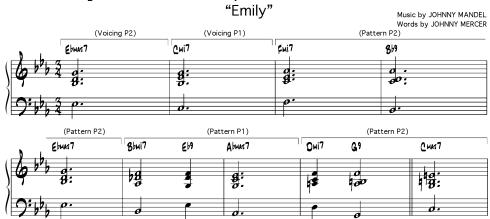






MONTH FOUR: Connecting the Dots

A. ETUDE: (Combined Voicing and Patterns P1 and P2)



B. ETUDE: (P1 and P2 with broken chords and passing notes)



MONTH FIVE: Swing Feel

A. Construction of a bass line



B. Right hand comping patterns

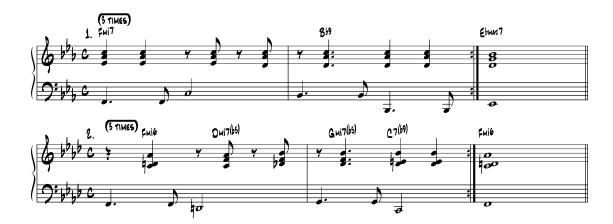


C. Put the two hands together



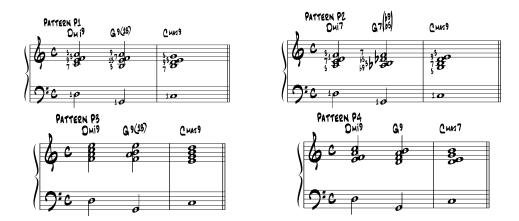
MONTH SIX: Bossa Nova

A. Short exercises

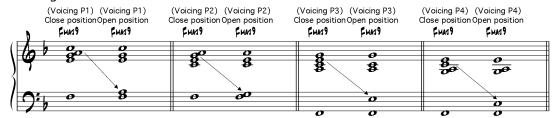


ABOVE AND BEYOND

A. Patterns P1, P2, P3 and P4 with color notes



B. Open voicings



C. ETUDE: (Open voicings with broken chords and passing notes)



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