

FEARLESS VOCAL IMPROVISATION

Michele Weir

(www.micheleweir.com/www.michmusic.com)

I. RHYTHM AND SYLLABLES

- A. Sing through written rhythm/syllables exercises. Drill them repeatedly so that the syllables become second nature. The exercises should represent rhythmic combinations and patterns that are common in the jazz language. Also, be sure to try them at different tempos and alternating between swing and straight 8th grooves. Below are a few examples. (Repeat each example four times.)

1. da ba doo dot
2. bop doo dot
3. doo dot
4. ba ba doo ba
5. dal ya dal ya doo ba doo da
6. da va doo dot ba doot dot doo yot

- B. Articulation is an important factor in making any given rhythmic figure or melodic line sound like jazz. In any given line, some notes will tend to be accented more than others, and some will tend to be "ghosted." (Half-sung.) Check out the examples below:

1. ba doo ba da (n) doo dot
2. ba doo(n)doo da (n) da (n) doo ya doo bop
3. ba doo(n)doo da (n) da (n) doo ya doo bop

II. MELODY

- A. Diatonic Melodic Lines

1. B^bmaj7 G-7 C-7 F7
2. B^bmaj7 G-7 C-7 F7
3. B^bmaj7 G-7 C-7 F7
4. B^bmaj7 G-7 C-7 F7

SINGING THE CHANGES: (see page 2)

1. Sing the roots in whole notes, with live or recorded accompaniment.
(Or, singers can make up rhythms while singing the roots of the chords.)

Cmaj7 Cmaj7 D7 D7

2. Sing 5-note (and later, 7-note) scales on each chord.

3. Arpeggiate the chord changes.

4. Using the roots as home base, improvise freely on the tune.

D-7 G7 Cmaj7 D-7 G7

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Jazz Singer's Handbook: Book/CD set, Alfred Publishing

Vocal Improvisation: Book/CD set, Advance Music Publishing

CDs: *Night in the City* (Phil Mattson and the pm singers)

Jubilee (Phil Mattson and the pm singers)

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