Jazz/Rock Improvisation

A Complete Approach to Improvising on both Acoustic and Electronic Keyboards

Bert Konowitz

Contents

Improv Idea #1: Playing 8va (one octave higher than written)2Improv Idea #2: Playing 8va Bassa (one octave lower than written)8Improv Idea #3: Creating a Longer Composition14Improv Idea #4: Creating Changing Musical Moods20

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 1, lets you improvise right from the beginning. It is correlated page-by-page with Alfred's Jazz/Rock Course, Level 1. 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

Copyright © MCMXCIV by Alfred Music Publishing Co., Inc. All rights reserved. Printed in USA.

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

Improv Idea #1: Playing 8va (one octave higher than written)

IMPROVISATION ("Improv" for short) is an exciting musical skill that will give you the ability to use a variety of musical techniques to play written music in slightly different and appealing ways. Playing 8va adds interest by creating a **contrast** (difference) with the written music.

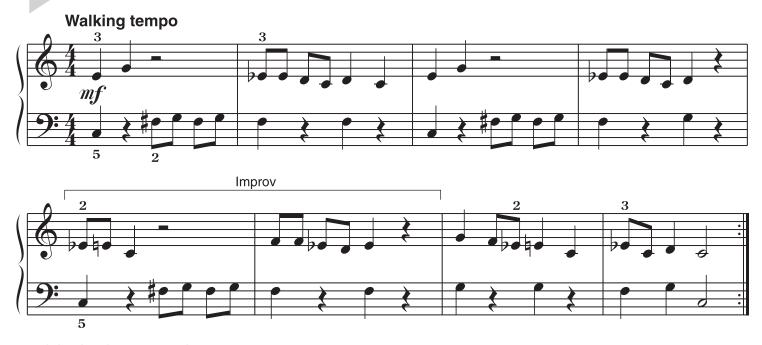
FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS

Play as written.



CHANGING DIRECTIONS

Improv Score The IMPROV Score is a step-by-step guide that will make improvising very easy. 1st time, play right hand (RH) 8va at the Improv measures marked (——). 2nd time, play both hands (BH) 8va at the Improv measures.



ACOUSTIC JAMMING: Play the left hand an octave lower.

ELECTRONIC JAMMING:

REGISTER: Brass/Synth Brass 1 RHYTHM: Rock (even 8ths) or Jazz (slightly uneven 8ths)

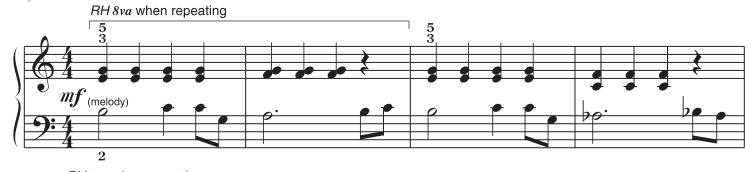
Planning an Improv #3: Creating a Longer Composition

BEING CLOSE BY

IMPROV SCORE

1st time, play as written.

2nd time, create a longer composition by repeating the Improv measures.





COPY CAT

Write in Improv signs wherever you decide to create a longer composition—select any pair of measures (1-2, 3-4, etc.).

IMPROV SCORE

1st time, play as written.

2nd time, play repeats RH 8va at Improv measures.



ACOUSTIC JAMMING:

BEING CLOSE BY: none.

COPY CAT:

Play all single notes and the bottom tone of each chord in the left hand an octave lower.

ELECTRONIC JAMMING:

BEING CLOSE BY: COPY CAT:

REGISTER: Brass

REGISTER: Horn/Flute RHYTHM: Slow Rock **RHYTHM:** Rock or Jazz