



FOREWORD

With this book you can learn how to improvise in jazz and rock styles like a pro! Improvisation is important because it allows the performer to use music to express individual feelings and ideas. Improvisation is a natural part of jazz/rock playing. It allows you to take written charts or lead sheets and create new melodies, rhythm and chords. Whether you wish to play as a soloist or in a jazz or rock band, you will be instantly equipped to know exactly how to improvise. The secret is out—everyone can improvise!

You will need an acoustic or electronic piano, or a keyboard that

has a piano register. If you use an acoustic piano, you will have the advantage of touch sensitivity and the natural feel of a true piano keyboard. If you use an electronic keyboard or synthesizer, for best results it should have a full-sized keyboard and be touch-sensitive.

IMPORTANT! Although this is a Teach Yourself book, any student will find it easier with the help of a competent teacher. If you run into difficulties, a teacher is a must. If you find that you are making rapid progress on your own, you will certainly learn even more rapidly with professional assistance. Learning music *with a*

teacher is always easier than *without* a teacher.

Optional CD

The companion CD features examples of the pieces (indicated by track numbers). If your audio equipment offers the capability of track separation, turn the balance all the way to the left to hear just the piano part; turn the balance all the way to the right to hear just the arrangement, minus the piano part. Keep it in the center for a perfect combination of both! Note: Due to the time limits of the CD, not all the repeats have been taken.

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Making Improv Decisions #3: Playing with Different Dynamics

Give and Take



IMPROV SCORE
1st time, play as written.
2nd time, play *p* or *f* at the
Improv measures.

Andante

Chords: C⁷ 3 1, F, Fm, C, Am, B^b, G

5 *p or f* Chords: F, Fm, C, Am, A^b, G, C

9 *p or f* Chords: F⁷ 5 2, C 5, F⁷, C

13 *p or f* Chords: F⁷, C, N.C., G⁷, D.C. al Fine