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CHAPTER I

FOUNDATION EXERCISES: PENTATONICS

The Pentatonic Scale

Major pentatonic:

Inversions of the major pentatonic (sets):

For practice purposes and for ease in conceptualization and visualization, treat the first note of each of the sets (or inversions) as the first note of a major scale, as in the following example:

To further facilitate the use of the various sets, the scale is organized into four-note groups with adjacent scale notes, i.e. the following:
Chapter V

BITONAL PLAYING

In a very real sense a large portion of all of what passes for contemporary jazz has as its basis bitonality. Sometimes simply the choice of a certain scale will imply bitonality; for example, a diminished scale such as C-Db-Eb-E♭-F♯-G-A-B♭-C over a C7 chord will suggest Eb, Gb, or A over C. At other times a sideslip when playing pentatonic scales will achieve the same result. Beyond some point, protracted use of fourths will almost always result in a bitonal or polytonal ambiance.

In this chapter we will, however, deal primarily with bitonals in their purest sense, that is, chord against chord or chord against pedalpoints. The information in this chapter is designed to help the reader learn how to practice the material effectively, internalize it, and make it a part of performance.

Realizing Bitonal Changes: Some Possibilities

1. Look for situations in which a known scale is mandated, i.e. the following:

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   \text{Ab} & \quad \text{F ascending melodic minor} \\
   \text{Bb} & \quad (F-G-Ab-B♭-C-D-E-F) \\
   \text{Gb} & \quad \text{Eb ascending melodic minor} \\
   \text{Bb} & \quad (Eb-F-Gb-Ab-B♭-C-D-Eb) \\
   \text{C} & \quad \text{F ascending melodic minor} \\
   \text{Ab} & \quad (F-G-Ab-B♭-C-D-E-F) \\
   \text{E} & \quad \text{G diminished} \\
   \text{G} & \quad (G-Ab-B♭-B-C♯-D-E-F-G)
   \end{align*}
   \]

2. Manufacture a scale from the notes from both chords, i.e. the following:

   \[
   \begin{align*}
   \text{B} & \quad \text{C D♭ E F♯ G B C}
   \end{align*}
   \]