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“Giant Steps” Lead Sheet

John Coltrane’s composition *Giant Steps* is without a doubt the most challenging jazz chord progression of the late 20th Century. This piece has challenged and petrified countless jazz musicians since its recording in 1960. I have run into great players who have come up with endless excuses for refusing to play it. I avoided it for years until I did what Coltrane did—I started to practice it. This led me to writing my own solos. Only then did the tune begin to yield its complex nature. Soak up the melody. Be able to quote it at any time during your solo. Collect as many ideas, licks and phrases and apply them until you are able to quote them at will. Invent your own solos. Good luck!

GIANT STEPS

By
John Coltrane

A

Bmaj7 D7 Gmaj7 Bb7 Ebmaj7

Am7 D7 Gmaj7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 F#7 Bmaj7

B

Fm7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 Am7 D7

Gmaj7 C#m7 F#7 Bmaj7

Fm7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 C#m7 F#7

SOLO 8: Triplet Study



Example 8

Track 10

Bmaj7 **D7** **Gmaj7** **Bb7**

T
A
B

7 8 7 9 10 11 10 13 7 8 7 10 6 8 6 9

9 10 9 7 7 8 7 10 9 11 9 7 8 9 8 11

Ebmaj7 **Am7** **D7**

T
A
B

5 6 5 3 5 6 5 3 5 6 5 3 2 3 2 5 1 2 1 4 3 4 3 6 5 6 5 3 2 3 2 5

Gmaj7 **Bb7** **Ebmaj7** **F#7**

T
A
B

3 4 3 5 6 7 6 9 3 4 3 6 2 3 2 5

5 6 5 3 3 4 3 6 5 6 5 3 4 5 4 2

Bmaj7 **Fm7** **Bb7**

T
A
B

1 2 1 4 3 4 3 6 6 7 6 4 4 5 4 6 5 6 5 8 3 4 3 6 4 5 4 7 6 7 6 9