

Table of Contents

<i>i. Preface</i>	ii
<i>ii. About this Book</i>	15
<i>iii. What's on the CD</i>	18
<i>iv. Intro to Vocal Improvisation</i>	27

Part One: JAZZ FUNDAMENTALS

1. CHORDS AND SCALES	32
Chord Types, Extensions, Chord Symbol Notation and Chord Chart	32
Scales and Modes	36
2. CHORD PROGRESSIONS AND HOW THEY WORK	45
Chord Function	45
Chord Progressions of Jazz Standards	47
Tips for Analyzing Chord Progressions	49
Turnarounds and Vamps	53
3. OTHER BASICS	55
Rhythmic Grooves	55
Song Form	57
Blues	57
Performance Traditions	60
4. JAZZ KEYBOARD	61
Scales and Chords	62
Chord Voicings	63
Chord Progression Patterns	64
Other Voicings and Patterns for Practice	66

Part Two: BEGINNING IMPROVISATION

5. GETTING STARTED	70
Melody Variation	70
"In the Time of Summer"	74
Listening	74
6. RHYTHM AND SYLLABLES	75
Keeping Time	75
Swing Feel	77
Learning to Swing	77
Syllables	81
7. CREATING MELODIES	86
Melodic Ideas	86
Blues Scale	88
Melodic Embellishments	91
8. DIATONIC CHORD PROGRESSIONS	94
Major Keys	94
Minor Keys	99
9. LEARNING TO HEAR THE CHANGES	102
Singing the Roots	102
"Take the Train to Harlem"	103
Improvising Around the Roots	105

Part Three: INTERMEDIATE IMPROVISATION

10. ARTICULATION	108
How Articulation is Used in Jazz	108
Ghost Notes	109
11. MELODIC STRUCTURE	112
Motive Development	114
Sequence	115
12. NON-DIATONIC CHORD PROGRESSIONS	119
13. HEARING THE CHANGES	126
Singing the Changes – Basic Level	126
“The Leaves of Fall”	131

Part Four: ADVANCED IMPROVISATION

14. OTHER ASPECTS OF RHYTHM	136
Rhythmic Interest	136
Double-Time Licks	137
15. MORE ABOUT THE BEBOP LANGUAGE	142
Melodic Elements	142
Jazz Etude	149
16. HEARING THE CHANGES EVEN BETTER!	151
Singing the Changes – Advanced Level	151
Guide Tone Lines	152
Improvising Around Guide Tone Lines	154
17. IMPROVISING ON JAZZ STANDARDS	157
“The Moon Has Risen”	158
“What Do They Call This?”	162

Part Five: OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

18. CREATING AND RETAINING INTEREST	170
The Artistic Process	170
Tension and Release	171
Predictability and Surprise	171
Intensity	172
Phrasing	172
Overall Solo Contour	174
What to Do When You’re Dry for Ideas	175
19. PRACTICE	176
Singing with Solos and Transcribing	177
Ideas for Stretching	179
Other Thoughts Regarding Practice	180
Daily Practice Routine	181
Organizing Practice Time	182

Part Six: VOCAL IMPROVISATION IN THE CLASSROOM

20. WORKING WITH GROUPS OF STUDENTS	186
Fear of the Unknown	186
Maximizing the Available Class Time	187
Tips for Soloists in Jazz Choir	188
Use of the CD in the Classroom	188

21. GROUP ACTIVITIES AND GAMES	189
Circle Games	189
Activities with Words	191
Transcription and Listening Activities	192
Musical Conversation Games	192
Free Form Activities and Games	193
Tips for Singers	194
 <i>Appendix A - Interviews with Jazz Singers</i>	 195
DeeDee Bridgewater	196
Jay Clayton	198
Kurt Elling	199
Miles Griffith	200
Jon Hendricks	201
Sheila Jordan	202
Janet Lawson	203
Kevyn Lettau	205
Carmen Lundy	207
Kevin Mahogany	208
Bobby McFerrin	209
Darmon Meader	210
Mark Murphy	211
Judy Niemack	212
Cathy Segal-Garcia	213
Don Shelton	214
Jennifer Shelton	215
Bob Stoloff	216
Sunny Wilkinson	217
 <i>Appendix B - Solos for Transcribing</i>	 218
 <i>Appendix C - Index of Exercises</i>	 225
 <i>Glossary</i>	 229
 <i>About the Author</i>	 232

2. Sing the same tune using syllables instead of lyrics. Keep the syllables relatively simple. (Refer to Chapter 6 for more about syllables.)

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, treble clef, and key signature of one flat. The first staff starts with F7, followed by B♭7, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: ba da - ba dot dot da ya da doo-dot da - ba. The second staff starts with B♭7, followed by F7, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: da - ba dot dot da ya da doo-dot ba - ba. The third staff starts with G-7, followed by C7♭13, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: dot dot da - ya dot dot da yoo-dot.

3. Sing it again, making variations in the rhythm, and maybe a note change or two.

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, treble clef, and key signature of one flat. The first staff starts with F7, followed by B♭7, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: ba da - ba doo-dot dot ba da doo-da— yoo-dot ba - ba. The second staff starts with F7, followed by B♭7, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: da - ba doo-dot dot ba da doo - da— doo-dot ba - ba. The third staff starts with G-7, followed by C7♭13, then F7, and ends with a rest. The lyrics are: da - dot ba da - dl da - dl da - da - da— ba doo - bop.

EXERCISE 7-F

The next set of exercises are also designed to be sung with accompaniment track 1 on the CD. It is recommended that you repeat each of the one-bar exercises four times each, and each of the two-bar exercises twice. All exercises below correspond to an F7 chord or a blues progression in F. Certainly, they can also be transposed to accommodate blues in other keys as necessary.

1.

ba da - ba da - dot

2.

doot da - ba doo-dot

3.

dot da - ba da - dot

4.

³
doo - ba - doo doot - n-doo —

5.

doo - ya doo - dot

6.

³
da - ya da ba doo dee - da

7.

deel - ya deel - ya doo-dot

8.

dot da - ba doo - da

9.

doo dot dee - ba doo - da —

10.

doo - ba doo - ya doo - ba doo - ya dee - ya doo - dot

11.

da - ba doo - ba dee - ya doo - da — dot

12.

dool - ya doo - ba doot - n doo - ba doo - yoo - dot

13.

³
da - n - da da - ba - doo da - dot ba da yoo - dot

On this next progression, a C natural minor (Aeolian) scale may be used:

FIGURE 8-D

i-7 vi-7 ii \flat 7 V7sus(b9)
 C-7 F-7 D \flat 7 G7sus(b9)

Exercises for Diatonic Chord Progressions in Minor Keys

Sing each exercise along with the corresponding CD track. (The scale used as a basis for these exercises is harmonic minor.)

EXERCISE 8-C



1. C-6 D \flat 7 G7b9

 F-6 G \flat 7 C7b9

 2. B \flat -6 C \flat 7 F7b9

 E \flat -6 F \flat 7 B \flat 7b9



EXERCISE II-B



Experiment with motive development using the accompaniment track 1 on the CD: the blues track. (Turn the vocals off to listen to the rhythm section alone.) Blues chord progressions lend themselves well to the use of motives and motive development. Start with a 2-bar idea and see how long you can go using it as a seed for the rest of the solo. Remember, the original idea can be lengthened, fragmented, inverted, transposed, and so on. Here is an example:

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff starts with an F7 chord, followed by a B♭7 chord, another F7 chord, and a final measure ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics under the first two measures are "ba - ba da - ba da - bop" and "ba ____ ba doo - dot". The lyrics under the last two measures are "ba - ba da - ba da - ba doo - da ____". The middle staff begins with a B♭7 chord, followed by a measure ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign, then an F7 chord, and a final measure ending with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The lyrics under the first two measures are "ba - ba da - ba da - dot" and "ba ____ ba doo - dot". The lyrics under the last two measures are "ba - ba da - ba da - ba doo - da ____ yoo - da ____". The bottom staff begins with a G-7 chord, followed by a C7♭13 chord, an F7 chord, and a C7♭13 chord. The lyrics under the first two measures are "ba - ba da - ba doo - da ____" and "ba da - ba da - ba doo - dot". The lyrics under the last two measures are blank.

Sequence

Sequence is simply the transposition of a melodic shape into different keys or to different starting notes. The melodic intervals of a sequence may be exactly the same:

FIGURE II-C

A single staff of music in common time with a treble clef. It shows a melodic line with four notes. Above the notes, the text "halfstep" is repeated three times, indicating the interval between each consecutive note. The notes are connected by vertical stems.

or it may be that only the general melodic shape is retained:

FIGURE II-D

A single staff of music in common time with a treble clef. It shows a melodic line with four notes. Above the notes, the text "3rd", "4th", and "5th" are placed above the first, second, and third notes respectively, indicating the intervals between the notes. The notes are connected by vertical stems.

Exercises for Sequential Patterns

Sing through the following sequential patterns in exercises 11-C with track 10 on the CD. Use your own choice of syllables. After listening to the vocal demonstrations of each pattern on the CD, it is recommended that you sing each sequence with the rhythm section tracks alone, one at a time, though all 12 key centers before moving on to the next.

EXERCISES II-C



1. E-7 A7 D-7 G7 C-7 F7 B♭Δ7

A-7 D7 G-7 C7 F-7 B♭7 E♭Δ7

2. D-7 G7 C-7 F7 B♭-7 E♭7 A♭Δ7

G-7 C7 F-7 B7 E♭-7 A♭7 D♭Δ7

3. C-7 F7 B♭-7 E♭7 A♭-7 D♭7 G♭Δ7

F-7 B7 E♭-7 A♭7 C♯-7 F♯7 BΔ7

Straight-8th Etude

bop ba doo-dot ya doot-n doo-dot bop bop ba doo-dot

doo - ba-doo-dl doo dot ba doo-ee oo-da— bop doo-va doo-ah— dot doo-dot ba—

— ya-ba doo-dot ba— ba da-dn doo-wee oo-da— bop ba da-dl-a-ba da-dl-a - ba dee-dot