

G7 Funk Improvisation Ideas

Swinging 16ths

This sheet music is to provide visual guide of the techniques introduced in the video

It provides one example of a phrase using each technique - at times the notation is different to what is being played in video

♩ = 80

Swinging 16ths Subdivision

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a
Long Short L S

1 e + a 2 e + a 3 e + a 4 e + a
L S L S

Writing 'swinging 16ths' mean we don't need to write all the triplets - much easier to read!

Left Hand Shell Voicings

G7 C7
3rd 7th
Root Root

1. G Mixolydian Scale

1 2 3 4 5 6 b7 1

Learn the scale degrees - this will make it easier to assimilate ideas and adapt to other keys

G7 C7 Root G7 C7
Call Response
Home Sound

2nd (9th)

G7 C7 G7 C7

Modal Sound

3rd

G7 C7 G7 C7

Strongest Harmonic Tone
b3 is Major Blues Note

4th (11th)

G7 C7 G7 G7

Unresolved Sound

5th

G7 C7 G7 C7

Dominant Sound
b5 is Minor Blues Note

6th

G7 C7 G7 C7

'Bounce Note'

7th

G7 C7 G7 C7

Leading Tone

6. Harmonic Intervals

G7 C7 G7 C7

4ths

7. Octaves

G7 C7 G7 C7

+Hit with Rootless Voicings for Thicker Texture

8. Parallel Chords

G7 C7 G7 C7

9. Sequences

G7 C7 G7 C7

10. Chromatic Movement

G7 C7 G7 C7

11. Enclosures

G7 C7 G7 C7

Approach a target note by going over and under - it's a good way to stop yourself just going up and down scales
There are many different combinations but concept is the same

12. Arpeggios

G7 C7 G7 C7

D Minor Triad etc... G Minor Triad etc...

Take the 5th note of the chord and build a minor triad off this to create this sound

13. Playing Outside

G7 C7 G7 C7

Use Db Major Arpeggio for 'Outside' sound

Other options: A Major, Bb Major, Eb Major, E Major - watch my 'Upper Structures' video for deeper explanation

13. Playing Outside

G7 C7 G7 C7

Use Ab Major Scale for 'Outside' sound

14. Dynamic Build

G7 C7 G7 C7

When building a solo it helps to think of a structure. Start simple and include a lot of space and gradually build up using the techniques in this lesson

For example - divide the solo into 4 parts:

1. Tease with simplicity and space - call and response phrases
2. Increase texture with double stops and harmonic intervals, reduce space between phrases
3. Extend the lines with chromaticism, enclosures and playing outside
4. Thicken texture with octaves + Rootless voicings and parallel chords - rhythm 'shred patterns' and finishing statement down

Thanks for watching this tutorial - check the description for extra resources and lessons related to this one

You are all legends thanks for supporting piano productivity peace!