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Playing jazz piano is a journey filled with rhythm, emotion, and unique sound combinations. It's not as daunting as it may seem. If you've been wondering how to play piano for jazz, here are ten simple and practical tips to get you started. These tips will give you a solid footing and help to enhance your jazz piano skills. So, let's dive right in, shall we? Listen to Jazz MusicThe first step in learning how to play piano for jazz is to immerse yourself in jazz music. By regularly listening to jazz, you get to understand its unique rhythm, its signature improvisation, and its rich harmonies. It's like learning a new language—the more you listen, the more fluent you become. Here are a few practical ways you can immerse yourself in the world of jazz Eations and let the sound of jazz radio stations and let the sound of jazz radio stations include WBGO, WWOZ, and Jazz Albums: Get your hands on some classic jazz albums. Listen to legendary jazz pianists like Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, and Oscar Peterson. Their music will give you insights into the diversity and depth of jazz concerts. Live performances offer a different experience altogether—you can see the musicians, observe their techniques, and feel the energy of jazz music in its purest form. Remember, the goal is not just to listen, but to absorb. Pay attention to the melodies, harmonies, the rhythm—how they intertwine to create the unique sound that is jazz. This will not only enrich your understanding of jazz music but also inspire you as you learn how to play piano for jazz. Learn the Blues ScaleIf there's one thing that gives jazz its distinct flavor, it's the blues scale. It's the blues scale. It's the blues scale is a must. The blues scale is a six-note scale. It's like your regular major scale, but with a few twists. The blues scale is a must. The blues scale is a must with a must blue scale is a must. The blue scale is a must blue scale is a must with a must blue scale is a must blue scale i flattened 7th degrees of a major scale. In the key of C, for instance, the blues scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the blues scale. Start Slow: When first starting out, play the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the blues scale. In the key of C, for instance, the blues scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the blues scale. Start Slow: When first starting out, play the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the blues scale. Start Slow: When first starting out, play the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the blues scale. Start Slow: When first starting out, play the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale in the scale in the blues scale. Start Slow: When first starting out, play the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the scale slowly. This helps solidify the scale in the your muscle memory. You can gradually increase the speed as you get comfortable. Use Both Hands: Practice the blues scale with both your right and left hand. This will help you develop coordination and dexterity, which are vital for jazz piano. Practice Regularly: Like anything worth doing, mastering the blues scale requires regular practice. Make it a part of your daily piano routine. The more you play, the more familiar you'll become with the scale. Remember, the blues scale is not just for playing the blues blues blues a strong harmonic foundation and adds that unmistakable jazz flavor to your playing. So, if you're serious about learning how to play piano for jazz, give the blues scale is the soul of jazz, swing rhythm. If blues scale is the soul of jazz, swing rhythm is its heartbeat. It's what makes your toes tap and your fingers snap when you hear a jazz tune. Swing rhythm is all about the eighth notes. In a regular rhythm, eighth notes are evenly spaced. But in swing rhythm, the first note is longer and the second one is shorter. This irregular rhythm gives jazz its unique groove and feel. Here are a few tips to help you master swing rhythm: Listen to Jazz Music: The best way to understand swing rhythm is to listen to a lot of jazz music. Notice how the rhythm swings and bounces? That's what you're aiming for.Use a Metronome to a slow tempo and practice playing eighth notes in a swing rhythm. Count Out Loud: Counting out loud as you play can help you keep the swing rhythm. Say "one and two and three and four" and so on, and make sure the "and" falls on the shorter, swung note. Swing rhythm might feel a bit strange when you first start out, especially if you're used to playing in a regular rhythm. But stick with it. With a bit of practice, you'll be swinging like a jazz pro in no time. Study Jazz ChordsNow that you're getting a feel for the swing rhythm, let's turn our attention to another key aspect of learning how to play piano for jazz: jazz chords. Jazz is known for its rich and colorful chords, and minor chords you might be used to. They often include added notes like sevenths, and elevenths, and el fifth, and seventh. They come in different flavors, like major, minor, and dominant, each with a different sound and function in a chord progression. Learn Jazz Chord Voicings: In jazz, you don't always play chords with the notes in root position. Jazz pianists often rearrange the notes, or even leave some out, to create different voicings. These can help your chords sound more jazzy and less blocky. Practice Chord Progressions: Jazz music often uses specific chord progressions, like the 2-5-1 progressions, like t greatest jazz pianists started where you are now. Take it one chord at a time, and before you know it, you'll be playing those rich, colorful jazz chords, it's time to level up your skills on how to play piano for jazz by mastering the 2-5-1 Progression. This progression is the most common chord sequence in jazz, and you'll find it in countless jazz standards. But what does 2-5-1 mean? It's actually quite simple. If you take any major scale, the 2nd, 5th, and 1st notes of that scale form the 2-5-1 progression. In the key of C Major, for example, the 2nd note is D, the 5th note is G, and the 1st note is C. So, a 2-5-1 progression in C Major would be Dm7 - G7 - Cmaj7.Why is this progression so popular? It's all about tension, and resolution. The 2-5 part creates a feeling of tension, and the 1 chord resolves that tension, creating a satisfying sense of homecoming. Here are some tips to master it: Practice in All 12 Keys: To really get this progression under your fingers, practice it in all 12 major keys. This will not only help you understand the progression better but also improve your general keyboard skills. Use Different voicings for the chords in the 2-5-1 progression. This will make your playing sound more sophisticated and jazzy. Play Along with Jazz Standards: Many jazz standards feature the 2-5-1 progression. Playing along with these songs can help you hear how the progression sounds in context and improve your ability to play it smoothly. If you want to know how to play piano for jazz, mastering the 2-5-1 progression is a must. It's a simple sequence, but it's also incredibly versatile and forms the foundation for much of jazz harmony. So, get to practice, and soon you'll be swinging with the best of them. Explore Jazz Improvisation. If you've ever wondered how to play piano for jazz, you've probably thought about how jazz musicians seem to pull beautiful melodies out of thin air. Well, it's not magic—it's improvisation, and it's a skill you can learn too!Improvisation is all about spontaneous creation. It's about taking the musical structures you know, like scales, chords, and progressions, and using them to create your own melodies on the spot. Here are a few tips to get you started with jazz improvisation:Start with the Blues: The blues is a great place to start with improvisation. Its simple structure and emotional depth make it a perfect playground for new improvisers. Try playing a 12-bar blues scale. Learn Licks: Licks are short, reusable musical phrases that you can use in your solos. You can learn licks from your favorite jazz recordings, or you can make up your own. Try to build a library of licks that you can pull out whenever you need them. Practice Improvisation is creating melodies that fit over changing chord progressions. Practice improvising over the 2-5-1 progression you've just learned, making sure your melodies outline the chords. Remember, improvisation is a skill that takes time to develop, so be patient with yourself. It's not about playing perfectly—it's about expressing yourself and having fun. So, go ahead, explore jazz improvisation, and see where your creativity takes you. Who knows? You might just create the next great jazz melody!Transpose Your Favorite Jazz SongsIf you're wondering how to play piano for jazz, one of the best ways to learn is by transposing is the process of changing the key of a song. It might sound like a tough task, but it's an excellent way to deepen your understanding of music theory and get a feel for how jazz songs are structured. So, where do you start? Here's a simple guide: Pick a Song: Start by picking one of your favorite jazz songs. It could be anything from a classic standard like "Autumn Leaves" to a modern hit like Norah Jones's "Don't Know Why". Learn the Original Key: Learn to play the song in its original key first. This will give you a solid foundation and help you understand the song's structure. Choose a new key for the song it to G major or F major. The goal is to challenge yourself, but not to the point of frustration. Transpose the Chords: Next, transpose all the chords in the song to the new key. This might take some time, especially if you're new to music theory, but stick with it—it's worth it.Practice the Transposed Song: Once you've transposed all the chords, practice playing the song in the new key. At first, it might feel strange, but with time, it will become second nature.Transposing is a powerful tool for any musician, but it's especially useful when learning how to play piano for jazz. It encourages you to think deeply about music theory, trains your ear, and helps you become a more versatile musician. Plus, it's a great way to impress your friends at your next jam session!Learn Jazz StandardsAnother key step in understanding how to play piano for jazz is getting familiar with jazz standards. These are the songs that have defined the genre over the years. They're the ones you'll hear in jazz clubs around the world and the ones other musicians will expect you to know. But what exactly is a jazz standard? It's a musical composition that is an important part of the jazz musician's repertoire. Jazz standards are musical compositions that are widely known, performed, and recorded by jazz artists as part of the genre's musical repertoire. So, how do you go about learning them?Listen: Start by listening to a lot of jazz standards. This will give you a sense of their common rhythms, chord progressions, and melodies. Some popular options include "Take the 'A' Train", "Blue in Green", and "Summertime". Choose a Standard: Next, choose one standard to focus on. It's better to fully understand one song than to vaguely know a dozen. Study the Sheet Music: Get a copy of the sheet music and spend time studying it. Look at the chord progressions, the melody, and the structure of the song. Learn to Play It: Now it's time to start playing Start slow, focusing on getting the chords and melody right. Play Along With a Recording: Once you're comfortable with the song, try playing along with a recording. This will help you get a feel for how it should sound and will improve your timing. Learning jazz standards is a journey, but it's a rewarding one. You'll gain a deeper understanding of jazz music, improve your playing skills, and expand your musical repertoire. Plus, you'll be able to join in at jam sessions and impress your fellow jazz standards and start exploring!Practice with a MetronomeDo you want to know a secret about how to play piano for jazz with impeccable timing? It's simple—practice with a metronome is a device that helps keep a steady tempo while you're just starting out. So why is practicing with a metronome so important in jazz piano? Let's break it down: Consistent Tempo: Jazz is all about rhythm and timing. A metronome helps you maintain a consistent tempo, which is vital when you're playing jazz piano. Without it, you might unknowingly speed up or slow down, disrupting the flow of the music. Improves Timing: Practicing with a metronome can help you develop a strong sense of timing. This is important not just for solo playing, but also when you're itching to speed up. This discipline to stick with the metronome's tempo, especially when you're itching to speed up. This discipline it ching to speed up. This discipline it ching to speed up. This discipline to stick with the metronome's tempo, especially when you're itching to speed up. This discipline it ching to speed up. This d to a slow tempo. This allows you to focus on playing the notes accurately. As you get more comfortable, gradually increase the tempo. Remember, the goal isn't to play fast—it's to play well. And don't worry, practicing with a metronome won't make your playing sound robotic. Instead, it will give you a solid rhy that you can then use to inject your own personality and style into your playing. So, if you want to know how to play piano for jazz with rock-solid timing, get a metronome, and start practicing!Play with Other MusiciansNow that you've got some jazz piano basics under your belt, it's time to take your skills to the next level. And there's no better way to do that than by playing with other musicians. After all, jazz is a collaborative art form, and playing with others can give you a fresh perspective on how to play piano for jazz. So why should you start jamming with other musicians? Here are three good reasons: Improves Listening Skills: Playing with other sisn't just about showcasing your own skills. It's also about listening and responding to what the other musicians, they can give you valuable feedback on your playing. They might notice things that you've overlooked, like a certain chord that's not quite right, or a rhythm pattern that could use a little tweaking. Boosts Confidence: Playing in a group can be a real confidence booster. It can be nerve-wracking at first, but once you get the hang of it, you'll find that playing with others can be a lot of fun and very rewarding. Start by finding local musicians who are also into jazz. You can look for jam sessions in your area or even start your own. Don't worry if you're not a jazz virtuoso yet—most musicians are happy to play with beginners and can often provide helpful tips and advice. So go ahead, grab your sheet music, sit down at the piano, and start making music with others. It's one of the best ways to learn how to play piano for jazz, and it's a whole lot of fun too! If you're eager to improve your jazz piano skills and want to take your playing to the next level, check out the workshop will provide you with valuable insights and techniques to enhance your overall musicianship, helping you become a more confident and skilled jazz pianist. Instructor Jonny May Skill Level Beginner Intermediate Learning Focus Music Style Get free weekly lessons, practice tips, and downloadable resources to your inbox! There is nothing quite like the sound of jazz piano—the colorful chords, playful melodies, bluesy inflections, and a swinging comp. These may be some of the reasons why you were drawn to study jazz piano. For other aspiring students, their journey began when they were arrested by a particular jazz pianist's sound—Red Garland, Bud Powell, Oscar Peterson, Bill Evans, Thelonious Monk, Keith Jarrett...the list goes on. While these players are all unique, they each developed a highly-refined jazz piano skillset that enabled them to express themselves freely. But how does one develop such a powerful command of essential jazz piano skills? Not without a plan, that's for sure. Today's Quick Tip, The Beginner Jazz Piano Practice Guide, will help you build a balanced practice routine that focuses on the simultaneous development of 5 key pillars of jazz piano proficiency including technique, harmony, scales, lead sheets and improv. The best thing about The Beginner Jazz piano skills to express yourself. Use the following links to navigate through this guide: Intro to The Beginner Jazz Piano Practice Guide Many piano students find the study jazz pianists are brilliant—but then again, so are you! So no matter where your are in your jazz piano journey, you can celebrate the fact that you have made the commitment to discover your voice with this amazing form of musical expression we call jazz. Since there are so many jazz piano skills to learn, it's important that your practice guide is strategic and progressive. If you focus too narrowly, you're likely to struggle in actual playing situations For example, many jazz piano students become stagnant with left-brained analysis of jazz harmony. As a result, they put off the right-brained work of improvisation because they want to "understand it first." That's like discouraging a baby's first words until they understand it first." become fluent must listen to it and speak it regularly. So it's important to include improvisation, and the other four pillars of today's guide, in every jazz piano practice session, but how? A Guide to Divide: Jazz Piano Practice for Beginners Naturally, you're probably thinking, "How can I practice all five jazz piano pillars every day? That sounds like five different practice sessions per day!" Well, in a sense, you're right. The point is that each pillar—technique, harmony, scales, lead sheets and improv— is too important to neglect. Therefore, you serve yourself best in taking baby steps toward each of them rather than "hitting snooze" on the pillars that seem more difficult. The key is to determine the total amount of time you have available for practice each day, and then divide that time into five mini-practice-sessions of equal length. You might be surprised to learn that you can execute a well-balanced jazz piano practice sessions of equal length. entitled "It's Not How Much: It's How" published in Journal of Research in Music Education which found that piano students' length of practice and the use of specific strategies play a bigger role in success that a simple measure of accumulated practice time." —Christopher Tarr, Lecturer in Jazz, Edith Cowan University The image below represents deliberate practice sessions to give specific attention to each of the 5 pillars. Determine the total amount of time you have available for practice each day. Then divide that time into five mini-practice-sessions of equal length. Now that you understand how to deliberately structure your jazz piano practice time using today's beginner jazz piano practice guide is technique. What is musical technique? A musician's technique refers to their ability to efficiently control the anatomical mechanics needed to produce precisely desired sounds. Thus, a pianist's technique may be described as "weak" or "strong," "sloppy" or "clean," and so on. Piano technique is also related to dexterity—the skill or ease of using the hands. If you, as a pianist, are a driver, then you technique is your engine. "When you develop robust technical skills, you can close the gap between what you feel and what you're able to express through your instrument or voice." —Gerald Klickstein, Educator, Author and Guitarist The exercises is this section function much like a daily "tune-up" for your jazz piano technique. In fact, by adding these exercises into your daily practice routine, you'll build the following jazz piano proficiencies: Diatonic 7th chord hand Sth-note swing feel in right hand Et's look at the first exercise from today's lesson sheet. You can download the complete lesson sheet PDF and backing tracks from the bottom of this page after logging in with your membership. You can also easily transpose this material to any key using our Smart Sheet Music. Beginner Jazz Piano Technique Exercise This daily jazz piano technique exercise develops familiarity with diatonic 7th chords in the left hand and chromatic passing tones in the right hand at 90-200 BPM. Did you notice that the left hand plays through every diatonic 7th chords exercise? This is especially important since diatonic 7th chords exercise? This exercise? This exercise? This exercise? This is especially important since diatonic 7th chords exercise? develops fluency with chromatic neighbors in the right hand. Did you notice that each measure contains an accidental? Jazz pianists frequently use chromatic neighbors in their improvisation to target chord tones with melodic tension. If you want to take a deep dive on improv with chromatic neighbors, check out our course on 2-5-1 Soloing with Upper & Lower Neighbors (Level 3). When to Move On? One you can play the exercise above at 140 BPM, you can proceed to a new key, consider following the recommended key sequence in this beginner jazz piano practice guide: In the next section of this guide, you'll discover how to structure your daily piano practice routine to increase your understanding of jazz harmony. Pillar 2: Harmony The second pillar in today's beginner jazz piano students must be on a path to learning the 60 essential chords for jazz piano? There are 5 primary types of 7th chords that are essential to playing jazz. They are major 7th, dominant 7th, minor 7th, half-diminished 7th chords. Since there are 60 essential 7th chords for jazz piano in all. If you are brand new to the piano, viewing all 60 chords at once may be a bit overwhelming. However, take courage...there is actually good news here! The number of chords you must learn is finite—just 60 chords over time with as little as 6 minute per day! In addition, you can download the printable 60 Essential Chords for Jazz Piano PDF that appears at the bottom of this page after logging in with your membership. Next, we'll show you how to structure and sequence your practice of these chords. Practice Guide to Master Jazz Piano Chords The image below shows each of the 7th chords with the note C as the root. Notice that each chord is built from a triad (major, minor or diminished) and the interval of a 7th (major, minor or diminished). The beginner jazz piano student must acquire fluency with the following 5 essential 7th, dominant 7th, minor 7th, half-diminished 7th chords. To master each chord, you'll want to practice them with a few different exercises: blocked, broken and and "create-your-own" patterns. However, it is not necessary to practice each chord or each exercises demonstrate how to master the C Major 7 chord and can be spread over several days or even an entire week. Block Chord Exercise Block exercises are especially helpful for mental mastery of chords in various inversions. In the second measure, you'll play a root position C Major 7 an octave higher from where you began and descend down through each inversion in reverse. Block exercises help you master chords mentally and familiarize the hands with important chord starcise In additional to block chords, broken chords are an essential jazz piano skill used in playing melodies, whether composed or improvised. Therefore, it is beneficial for jazz piano students to practice chords linearly as in the example below. Broken chord exercises prepare you to sight-reading and improvise with familiar melodic shapes. Make-Your-Own Pattern Exercise Once you are comfortable playing the block and broken chord exercises in this jazz piano practice guide, consider making up your own patterns. Here is one possibility. Use the example above as a guide to create your own jazz piano practice fresh and interesting. As a general guide, you may spend about a week on the exercises to keep your jazz piano practice fresh and interesting. you can play the exercises above at 50 BPM, you are ready to move on to the next chord type. For example, repeat these exercises with C dominant 7. After that, play the same exercises over C minor 7 and so on. Using this plan, you will master all 60 chords in about a year. The following Level 2 courses are perfect if already know your 7th chords and want to practice all 12 transpositions of a specific type in a single exercise. You can find more courses like these in our Intermediate Piano Foundations Learning Track. Now, let's explore the next pillar of our beginner jazz piano practice guide. Pillar 3: Scales The third pillar that should be included in your daily practice is scales. Scales are import for 3 reasons: Playing scales improves your technique Scales are used to improvise a solo in jazz Scales are the building blocks of jazz chords Guide to Practice Scales from various starting pitches. This is quite different from most classical approaches to scale practice. Why is this so important? Consider this fact—very few tunes begin and end every phrase on the root of a chord. Therefore, as an improvisor, if you only practice scales from root-to-root, you will struggle to improvisor, if you only practice scales from root-to-root, you will struggle to improvisor, if you only practice scales from root-to-root, you will struggle to improvisor, if you only practice scales from root-to-root, you will struggle to improvisor. are scales that result from starting a major scale on each of its 7 tones. Each mode has a unique sound and a specific name. The names of the 7 modes in order from the 1st tone to the 7th tone are: Ionian Dorian Phrygian Lydian Aeolian Locrian Jazz musicians use modes as raw material for improvisation. Try playing the following ascending and descending scale exercises which feature each mode of the C major scale. Up Exercise for beginner jazz piano. Great job! This is an important first step in exploring modes. Check out the following courses to take a deep dive on the following modes used most frequently by jazz musicians: Now that you have practiced your technique, harmony and scales, you're ready to have some fun playing from a lead sheets are the most common form of music notation used by jazz musicians. Unlike the detailed scores of classical music, jazz lead sheets are the most common form of music notation used by jazz musicians. frequently omit many performance considerations such as: tempo indications dynamics articulation pedaling accompaniment patterns intros & endings In fact, the only things you can really expect to find on a lead sheet are an approximation of the melody and the chords. Anything else is a bonus! Lead Sheets: What's the point? You might be wondering, "What is the point of a notation system with so much ambiguity?" Great question! Lead sheets are common in musical styles of the 20th and 21st centuries that contain a considerable amount of performers' discretion inherent to the style itself. By contrast, the performance practice of classical music focuses on fidelity to the composer's intentions. In classical performance situations that include a conductor, he or she serves as the primary interpreter the composers' intentions. Jazz compositions, on the other hand, are frequently written to serve as a catalyst for the creative expression of the individual performance situations. Therefore, precise notation is not expected or desired. In fact, a lead sheet is quite commonly described as "a map" allowing jazz musicians to navigate through a tune together. Performance considerations such as chord voicings, dynamics and articulation are considered to be part of a jazz musician's playing style. Lead Sheet Performance Demonstration Let's performances. The tune "Fly On By" is Jonny May's original jazz swing composition with a "tip of the hat" to the jazz standard "Fly Me to the Moon." The two videos below represent drastically different approaches to performing the lead sheet. The first video is a literal reading of the lead sheet "as written" while the second video interprets the lead sheet in the jazz swing style. Wow, as you can see, the right approach makes a big difference! Did you notice that the melody on the lead sheet is written entirely with quarter notes for the first 7 measures? However, in listening to the two performances, you can hear that it is necessary to interpret the melody in light of conventional swing rhythms a big difference! Did you notice that the melody in light of conventional swing rhythms a big difference! Did you notice that the melody on the lead sheet is written entirely with quarter notes for the first 7 measures? This gives the tune the proper stylization. The second video also adds ornaments to the melody such as turns. Another significant difference between the two videos is how the chord symbols are interpreted. In the first video, the performer plays all root position 7th chords. However, the second video makes use of common jazz piano chord voicing techniques. Let's look at two simple steps that you can use to begin interpreting jazz lead sheets, even if you are brand new at it. Guide to Reading Lead Sheets for Jazz Piano Practice As a beginner jazz pianist, there are two simple steps you can apply right away to get a more jazzy sound when reading a lead sheet. Step 1: Play Chord Shells in Left Hand A chord shell is a piano voicing that uses only two or three notes from a given chord symbol. The best chord shells for beginner jazz piano students are root + 7th and root + 3rd . For chord progressions like we have in "Fly On By," you will generally get the best sound by alternating between these two shell types each time you change chords hell types each time In just a moment, we'll illustrate this approach. Step 2: Add One Harmony Note in Right Hand Adding as little as one note in the right hand can go a long way to filling out the harmony. In most cases, the best solution is to add a missing chord tone—that is, a note of the chord that is not already represented in the melody or chord shell. Jonny frequently describes this as "filler harmony." The following example from today's lesson sheet presents "Fly On By" with beginner chord shells and right hand filler harmony." A recommended pace to guide you in your jazz piano practice of lead sheets is to work through one tune about every two weeks. If you have additional time, you may be able to learn a new tune each week. On the other hand, there is no shame in learning one tune per month when practice time is limited. Be sure to check out our full-length courses on chord shells and lead sheets to learn more about these topics: Afterward, you can apply these skills on classic jazz tunes in the following courses: Fly Me To the Moon (Level 2, Level 3) Autumn Leaves (Level 2) In the next section, we'll continue examining Jonny's original composition "Fly On By" as we discuss how to incorporate improvisation into your daily practice routine. Pillar 5: Improv As you can see from the above clip, the fifth and final pillar in our practice guide for beginner jazz piano practice is improv. It's imperative that we clarify a common misconception about this topic upfront. Improv is not something reserved for "the pros." In fact, renowned jazz educator Jamey Aebersold built his entire career on three simple words—anyone can improve! "I haven't met anyone who can't improvise, although I've met a lot of people who think they can't." —Jamey Aebersold, Jazz Educator and Author Ironically, Jonny's improv Jazz musicians use many different techniques to improvise, however, an important starting point is to determine what key you are in. Here are three ways to find out. How to Find What Key A Song Is In To determine what key a song in, look for clues in the following musical elements: Key Signature Melody Chords If you are familiar with key signatures, then you recognize that the key signature for "Fly On By" suggests C Major or its relative, A minor. If you haven't learned these concepts yet, then be sure to visit our Beginner Piano Foundations Learning Track. From the perspective of the melody to "Fly On By," we have almost all white notes, except for the G# in measure 7. Over all, this still implies C major with a brief reference to A minor in measures 7 and 8. Did you notice that the melody begins and ends on the note C? Similarly, the chords for "Fly On By" are played almost entirely with white keys with the exception of E7 in measure 7. This too implies C major. Therefore, we can conclude that "Fly On By" is in C Major. Why is this important? Once you figure that out, you can use the corresponding major blues scale as a basis for improvisation. In this case, the C Major Blues Scale works fantastic! In fact, this is the scale allows beginners to explore improv and sound fantastic. Now, all you have to do to improvise over "Fly On By" is play the same chord shells in your left hand from pillar 4 as you explore melodic ideas with the C Major Blues Scale and left hand chord shells. Be sure to practice you improvisation with the backing tracks that are included with today's beginner jazz piano practice guide. This makes practice tons of fun and also helps develop your swing feel! For a deep dive on the major blues scale including exercises, grips, slides and turns, check out our courses on The Major Blues Scale (Gospel Scale) (Level 2, Level 3). Conclusion Congratulations, you have learned how to apply the 5 pillars of beginner jazz piano practice in today's guide. For more great practice ideas, check out our popular Practice Essentials (Levels 1–3) full-length course. Thanks for learning with us today! We'll see you next time. Blog written by Michael LaDisa / Quick Tip by Jonny May ¹ iambic pentameter - poetry in which each line contains five pairs of unstressed and stressed and stressed and stressed syllables. For example, "Arise fair sun, and kill the envious moon," from William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Share This Techniques planists use when playing jazz This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. Find sources: "Jazz piano" - news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (April 2012) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Thelonious Monk in 1947 Jazz piano is a collective term for the techniques pianists use when playing jazz. The piano has been an integra part of the jazz idiom since its inception, in both solo and ensemble settings. Its role is multifaceted due largely to the instrument's combined melodic and harmonic capabilities. For this reason it is an important tool of jazz musicians and composers for teaching and learning jazz theory and set arrangement, regardless of their main instrument. By extension the phrase 'jazz piano' can refer to similar techniques on any keyboard instruments. Along with the guitar, vibraphone, and other keyboard instruments, the piano is one of the instruments, the piano is one of the instruments, the piano is one of the instruments in a jazz combo that can play both single notes and chords rather than only single notes and chords rather than only single notes and chords rather the piano is one of the instruments. or "Harlem stride" emerged during the 1920s, predominantly in New York, United States. James P. Johnson was a prominent proponent. The left hand improvised melodies.[1] Bill Evans performing at the Montreux Jazz Festival in 1978 Mastering the various chord voicings—simple to advanced—is the first building block of learning jazz piano. Jazz piano technique uses all the chords found in Western art music, such as major, minor, augmented, diminished, seventh, suspended fourth, and so on. A second key skill is learning to play with a swing rhythm and "feel". In jazz, the roots are usually omitted from keyboard voicings, as this task is left to the double bass player. Jazz pianists also make extensive use of chord "extensions", such as adding the ninth, eleventh or thirteenth scale degree to the chord. In some cases, these extensions", such as adding the ninth, eleventh or thirteenth scale degree to the chord. In some cases, these extensions may be "altered" i.e. sharpened or flattened, as in the case of a "sharp 11" chord. The next step is learning to a start of the chord start of the chord start of the chord. to improvise melodic lines using scales and chord tones. This ability is perfected after long experience, including much practice, which internalizes the physical skills of playing and the technical elements of harmony, and it requires a great natural 'ear' for extemporaneous music-making. When jazz planists improvise, they use the scales, modes, and arpeggios associated with the chords in a tune's chord progression. The approach to improvising has changed since the earliest eras of jazz piano. During the swing era, many soloists improvised "by ear" by embellishing the melody with ornaments and passing notes. made it increasingly harder to play "by ear." Along with other improvisers, such as saxes and guitar players, bebop-era jazz piano (the technique) and the instrument itself offer soloists an exhaustive number of choices. One may play the bass register in an ostinato pattern, popular in boogie style, where the left hand repeats a phrase numerous times throughout a song, as performed by Rob Agerbeek in "Boogie Stomp". The left hand can also be played as a melodic counterline that emulates the walking of an upright bass. In stride piano, (similar to the earlier ragtime) the left hand rapidly plays alternate positions between notes in the bass register and chords in the tenor register, while the right hand may play melodic lines, or harmonic content, chordally or in octaves. It may also be played in lockstep with the left hand, using a double melody block chord called "locked-hand" voicing, or Shearing voicin created ragtime on the piano. As the genre progressed, the piano was usually featured in the rhythm section of a band, which was typically configured as one or more of piano, guitar, bass, or drums, or other instruments, such as the vibraphone. Over time, playing piano-accompaniment in ensemble sets, and then bands, changed from primarily timekeeping (consisting of repetitive left-hand figures) to a more flexible role. Ultimately, the skilled pianist was free both to lead and to answer the instrumental soloist, using both short and sustained, chordal and melodic, fragments—a technique known as comping. Good comping musicians were capable of many and different chord voicings, so to match the various moods the different soloists were aiming for. In the early days, not all leading pianists were concerned to provide comping. Others—notably Duke Ellington, who became famous during the Harlem Renaissance at the Cotton Club—earned great esteem among band members as well as other musicians. Ellington comped enthusiastically in the soloist and did much to develop the technique. Jazz piano moved away from playing lead melody to providing foundation for song sets; soon, skilled jazz pianists were performing as soloists. In the 1940s and 1950s, a number of great piano players emerged. Pianists like Thelonious Monk and Bud Powell helped create and establish th sound of bebop. Bill Evans built upon the style of Powell while adding a distinct classical influence to his playing, while Oscar Peterson pushed rhythmic variations and was influenced by the style of Art Tatum, Teddy Wilson and Nat King Cole. Wynton Kelly, Red Garland, Herbie Hancock, and Keith Jarrett were also exceptional planists who played with Miles Davis. Tommy Flanagan was featured by John Coltrane on his hit album Giant Steps. McCoy Tyner is also an influential player who played with Coltrane. Music portal Jazz pianists Swing (jazz performance style), a term of praise for playing that has a strong rhythmic "groove" or drive Taylor, Billy (1983). Jazz Piano: A Jazz History. Dubuque, Iowa: W.C. Brown Co. ISBN 978-0697099594. Adapted from Taylor's National Public Radio series. Mark Levine: The Jazz Piano Book. A "how to" book on the subject. Randy Halberstadt: Metaphors For The Musician. Insights into almost every aspect of jazz piano. Luke Gillespie: Stylistic II/V7/I Voicings For Keyboardists. Covers all styles of comping, from basic and fundamental approaches to modern. Hal Galper: Forward Motion. An approach to jazz phrasing. Riccardo Scivales: Jazz Piano; The Left Hand (Bedford Hills, New York: Ekay Music, 2005). A method covering all the left-hand techniques used in jazz piano; with hundreds of musical examples. David Berkman: The Jazz Musician's Guide to Creative Practicing, Covers the problems of jazz improvisational practice with a focus on the piano, but for all instruments. (Also, it is entertaining and humorous.) "Duke Ellington Biography." Duke Ellington Biography. N.p., n.d. Web. 13 November 2014. Dupuis, Robert. "Contemporary Musicians: Art Tatum." Encyclopedia. N.p., 1997. Web. 15 November 2014 ^ Lees, Gene (2006). Jazz Piano Roots: A Short History of Early Jazz Piano - Part I. Katonah, NY. p. 24 - via ProQuest. { (cite book}): CS1 maint: location missing publisher (link) ^ Jazzology: The Encyclopedia of Jazz Theory for All Musicians, by Robert Rawlins, Nor Eddine Bahha, Barrett Tagliarino. Hal Leonard Corporation, 2005 ISBN 0-634-08678-2, ISBN 978-0-634-08678-6. Page 141 Wikimedia Commons has media related to Jazz Piano. Wikiversity has learning resources about Jazz Piano - Marian McPartland's program on National Public Radio BBC Scotland's History of Jazz Piano - Wikiversity has learning resources about Jazz Piano - Marian McPartland's Piano - Marian McPartland's Piano - Marian McPartland's History of Jazz Piano - Wikiversity has learning resources about Jazz Piano - Wikiversity has learning resources about Jazz Piano - Marian McPartland's Piano - Marian McPartland Richard Michael's History of the Jazz Piano Nairn, Charlie, (1975): Earl "Fatha" Hines: [1] documentary Retrieved from "Alright, so how do you really learn jazz piano? Since I started this site I've received numerous emails from readers asking me the best way to learn how to play jazz piano? Since I started this site I've received numerous emails from readers asking me the best way to learn how to play jazz piano? first start with my jazz piano journey to give you an example... My Jazz Piano Journey For jazz beginners this beautiful style of music can seem intimidating and hard to tackle. Don't worry though. You're not alone! I remember feeling the same way myself as a young musician while listening to great jazz musicians. I would sit in my basement and just listen over and over again to people like Charlie Parker, Herbie Hancock, Wes Montgomery, and others. How did they play jazz like that?? I was so amazed by how they sounded but I had no idea what they were doing to get that magnificent sound. I constantly wondered where I could I even begin to sound like these guys? Now, many years later as a pro musician I look back on those uncertain times and wish I had discovered a clearer direction when I started. So, in order to help the beginner jazz piano students out on their own path to growth. I'd like to discuss some core components of what you need to begin to play this wonderful style of music. Hopefully this will give you guys a more focused start on your journey of finally playing jazz piano. This is the starter guide/advice I wish I would have had as a newbie. Let's get to learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning! Step 1: Learning Jazz Piano Standards - The Start Being a beginner jazz musician is very similar to being a student learning a new learning a new learning a student learning a new or a new scale, it becomes a piece of vocabulary you can then use in a sentence. Now, of course learning new "words" is important to any language but if you don't know how to construct and speak a full sentence it will always be hard to communicate. To continue with our metaphor, learning jazz tunes is the equivalent of us truly being able to speaking in sentences. Once you know tunes then you can apply any new musical idea you learn to jazz songs. So, the first step should be to spend some time actually learning the melody and the chord changes. Jazz Tune Suggestions To Start With You can start and learn jazz standards like Satin Doll, Blue Bossa, Misty, Autumn Leaves, All The Things You Are, or Fly Me To The Moon, etc. If you need more ideas of beginning jazz standards to learn article. You should also check out this discussion of jazz fake books where we discuss some of the best fake books to learn from. We've also created an exciting course that teaches you how to play pro level jazz piano no matter what level you play at. We've got the sheet music, video breakdowns, song analysis for beginners, intermediate, and advanced players, jazz theory, jazz chords, and oh so much more! You can explore that course right here. Step 2: Aural Tradition and How To Learn Jazz Vocabulary We've discussed this before in our switching to jazz from classical article. The approach you take to play jazz piano is very different than classical. All the notes are written out in classical music. In jazz some of the notes are written out but a lot of the style of jazz music needs to be learned by ear and listening. The true essence of playing jazz piano is transferred by listening. How To Figure Out What you're hearing. How To Figure Out What you're hearing. How To Figure Out what you're hearing. recordings. You don't have to figure out a whole album of material you like. You can start very simple. Just figure out 2-4 bars of something you are already are familiar with. To help me study things more closely I like to use a music loop and slow down program called Transcribe. I use it on a daily basis and I find it very helpful to study faster or more detailed music at a slower and more manageable tempo. Listen closely for things like note choices, articulation placement of rhythms, syncopation etc. This kind of stuff can be very different than classical. Especially when it comes to beat placement and where accents are played. Should You Write Everything Down? It's not required that you can at minimum play along with at full speed use Transcribe to slow the recording down for you. On a final note, please keep in mind that when you play jazz, rhythm and articulation take on a much greater significance. Never forget that. It's not just the notes, it's how you rhythmically play them. As Duke Ellington said, "It don't mean a thing if it ain't go that swing!" Step 3: Jazz Piano Theory Concepts It is also very useful to spend time learning more about jazz theory. Learn some common chord progressions. Even if you're not a piano player knowledge of common chords will be very helpful. This is definitely part of core jazz piano chords and some chord voicings. A good place to start with music theory would be these chord lessons on shell voicings, rootless minor voicings, rootless dominant voicings, or even a I-VI-II-V-I chord progression. You can even start by learning some solo piano chords. By the way, one of the biggest mistakes that newbies make is to try to play jazz piano from a beginner book. This is a classic mistake and one that will cause a lot of pain and bad habits later. You never hear of any great jazz planists who learned how to play from a book. It's just not how the style is best learned. In my Zero To Jazz Plano Hero course we do have lots of sheet music, it happens from watching and listening through videos and fun exercises. When you're having fun with a beginner jazz lesson, you'll be that much more likely to continue studying with exciting motivation. After teaching hundreds of students privately in the Jazz Inner Circle Program, we know that motivation is huge for beginner jazz players and we want you to succeed as easily as possible. Many students think it takes years and years to learn jazz piano, but the truth is you can learn a lot in 60 days with the right teacher and the right methods. Step 4: Start To Acquire Some Jazz Vocabulary One of the best ways to really play jazz piano is to study the licks of master jazz musicians. Jazz is an improvisational art form. So, it's essential that you learn to improvise over common chord progressions and famous jazz standards. A good place to start is to learn a few II-V-I (2-5-1) licks. It's the most common chord progression in jazz. There are tons of licks, or this Bud Powell Lick, a Charlie Parker lick, a Red Garland lick, or even a Bill Evans lick. Or maybe you want someone to show you step by step how to become better at improvising jazz piano? We have a step by step course that shows you mind blowing jazz improv techniques. We feature great artists like Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, Horace Silver, McCoy Tyner and more. You can check out the jazz improvisation course here. Here's a sample video from the program. What do you once you learn some licks and chords? Make sure you spend time figuring out what makes each piece of vocabulary work. How are the building blocks? What are the core components? Get to the essence of each piece of vocabulary. Then, use them as a springboard for coming up with your own licks. By coming up with your own vocabulary you're essentially finding your own voice within the jazz tradition. At its highest level jazz really is about personal expression. So, analyze, understand, imitate, and then reinvent. I always recommend you start to learn jazz improvisation by listening to the jazz piano legends like Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans, Oscar Peterson etc. etc. If your musical ear isn't great yet but want to learn how to play like them and up your jazz chords, jazz theory, jazz music, ear training tips, jazz foundations, and so much more! It's safe to say, you're in for a treat. Welcome to jazz piano and enjoy the ride! ******* Now that you've made the great decision to learn jazz, what will you jump into 1st? If you're already have some experience what will you learn next? Did you enjoy this intro to jazz piano? Please leave a comment below and let us know! If you are new here please remember to subscribe to the free jazz lessons email list right below this article. You'll be receive all the latest and greatest jazz plano lessons right in your inbox. We look forward to helping you study and perform for many decades to come. Thanks for reading! How To Learn Jazz Songs The Right Way Today we're going to talk about one of the biggest mistakes that beginner jazz piano players make when they learn jazz standards. By the end of this short lesson you'll know how to learn jazz standards. By the end of this short lesson you'll know how to learn jazz standards. jazz standard you've most likely used a fakebook. Fakebooks can be a useful tool in certain ways. But, if you're using a fake book as your ONLY tool for learning a tune you're making a classic beginner mistake. The problem is that most fake books are missing an incredible amount of information. You'll rarely see all the hip voicings, chord changes, reharms, and rhythms that you'll hear pro level jazz musicians playing. The stylistic stuff that actually makes a tune sound interesting just isn't written in there! Ugh. Who wants to play a boring version of a tune? Not I said the fly. So, how can you start filling in the gaps that jazz fake books leave? How can you actually start playing jazz songs the way they're really meant to be played? How can you really unlock some of the incredible sounds you hear your favorite jazz piano musicians play? There is a solution... Hearing to other great musicians and also watching what they do. Since fake books really only tell a tiny portion of the story you want to make sure you're not turning to them as your first step for learning. Your real first step should be listening to a great example recording of a tune and studying what you hear. Now, I'm not talking about having music on in the background while you do dishes or read the news on the internet. No, I'm talking about a special type of listening. The unique type of listening that pros do when they learn from recordings, watching my jazz piano tutorials (Autumn Leaves), or studying with a teacher, you've got to get your ears involved in the process right from the beginning. So much of the true richness of the jazz style will not be found in your fake book! If you're not confident in your ear yet. Don't worry. I'm going to help you understand this process of learning through listening lets look at an example chord chart and then a video demo. Below I've included a typical bland and boring chart for the jazz tune "Autumn Leaves". This is how it's notated in the vast majority of fake books. Check out how: The melody is written with every note on the downbeat (no swing and groove). The chords don't have any sophistication written in there (no 9's, 11's, 13ths, etc). There aren't any comping rhythms written in. There aren't any arrangement tips. No cool voicings suggestions in there either. Just basic chord symbols. All you have is just a plain and vanilla reduction of the tune. Then, compare it to the video below. (Feel free to grab some of the chords I teach in the tutorial too!) Now, this time watch this video of me playing an arrangement of Autumn Leaves. (This video is a small excerpt from my Premium Jazz Lessons Membership Course.) Notice how just by simply exercising your listening skill you start hearing all kinds of new possibilities on Autumn Leaves that you didn't really hear before by just staring at the sheet music. Can you hear what happened when I added syncopation to the melody? The swing feel increased significantly. None of that rhythmic stuff is in the fake book. Can you hear how adding 9's, 11, 13ths, and other alterations made the chords sweeter and richer sounding? gave the tune more of a fuller sound? Sadly, none of that is in the fakebook either. All you did was watch a video 1x and the black and white ink on the fakebook chart came to life. Just imagine what would happen if you took this listening/watching approach for now on all your tunes. How much time would it save you? How much cooler would your arrangements of tunes sound? 14 Things To Listen For So, how do you learn by listening to recordings or by watching videos? How can you extract important details you can add into your own playing? Here's a basic list of things I'm listening for when I check out a recording of a tune. How does the artist phrase the melody? Are they adding a lot of syncopation? Are they changing the rhythm of the melody? Do they play the melody? Do they playing? Are they staying true to the original chord changes? Are they adding any extensions to their chords? Are they playing small chord voicings or large chord voicings or large they have they adding any extensions to their instrument are they adding any extensions to their chords? What kind of rhythmic feel are they using on the A section? What range on their instrument are they adding any extensions to their chords? Are they adding any extensions to the section? What kind of rhythmic feel are they adding any extensions to the section? What kind of rhythmic feel are they adding addin playing the melody? Most importantly, how does the performance differ from the fakebook? When you can start answering these questions you can start answering jazz performance. You can then take those discoveries and add them into your own playing! Your Next Steps Going Forward Learning jazz piano through listening is a skill just like everything else. You can absolutely make a huge impact on your playing if you listen the right way though. As a fun assignment I highly recommend you take a new tune and find an audio recording or video recording you really enjoy. Take the list from above and really get into the recording. Listen to the tune

several times and take some notes on what you hear using the list as your guide. Then, go ahead and sit down at the piano and try out some of the discoveries you make. I highly encourage you to copy the "listening list" from above and print it out. Always remember the more you put into this great art form the more it will give you in return. Enjoy your practice! If you have any questions or have some more ideas you'd like to add to the listening list please feel free to leave a comment below. It's always nice to hear from you! Sincerely, Steve P.S. If you need more help learning tunes and chords I encourage you to check out the over 16 hours of videos in my Premium Jazz Membership Course. photo above courtesy of fever blue on flickr 7 Tips For Playing Better Jazz piano. 1) Your chords that contain the prettiest notes. If you only play triads and basic chords you're missing 99% of the style. As far as jazz piano tips go this is a huge one! You don't want your playing to sound cheesy right? Great jazz chords must contain notes like the 7th, 9th, 11, and 13th. They should be balanced properly with the right note order too. 2) Learn the 7 most common chord progressions in jazz Jazz is a style of music that features many of the same chord progressions over and over again. Instead of looking at every chord individually it's critical that you start seeing chords as patterns. This will set your playing skyrocket. In fact, the reason I can play piano jazz arrangements quickly and instantaneously is because I see everything as patterns. 3) You must learn how to take a great solo on every song you play Jazz is a style that's filled with improvisation. It's at the very core of the genre of music. So, it's expected that you know how to take a great solo on every tune. 4) You must use authentic swing rhythms in your playing Jazz is a very rhythmic style of music. There are classic rhythms that every great jazz pianist uses in their playing. They're syncopated and groove like crazy! If you play everything on the downbeat you're missing a big part of this style. 5) You must substitute your own unique chords into every piano jazz song you play If you want to avoid the pain of sounding like a total newbie you should absolutely be changing some of the chords in your songs. Bon't sound like a million other wannabes. Be you! Audiences love it when you can insert unexpected and hip chords into you're missing 99% of this style of music. Playing stock arrangements off sheet music is not really playing jazz. It's the same thing as you reading someone else's words and saying that they're you're own. Now, I understand that it's not always easy for people to come up with their own piano jazz arrangements. Fortunately, there is a fun course that teaches you how to build your own jazz arrangements. They sound fantastic and after going through the course you'll be able to play piano jazz arrangements and songs like the pros. 7) Model the playing of proven jazz masters I'm talking about people LOVE their playing. Success leaves clues. People who succeed consistently are not lucky; they're doing something different than anyone else. These legends have a playing strategy that works and if you follow the same proven strategy then you'll reap the same rewards. That's why I always recommend people follow a system that teaches how to play the same classic chords. licks, songs, and rhythms that the legends use. If you want a big collection of thousands of my best piano tips and tricks, amazing insider tutorials, MIDI files, and more this is for you. Learn Timeless Jazz Piano, you'll learn how to create simple, memorable arrangements for 12 timeless jazz standards. A common challenge for students is connecting concepts from one song per month, you'll not only build a solid repertoire but also master the foundational skills needed to create your own arrangements. Each lesson reinforces key concepts, so by the end of the year, you'll have a deep understanding of jazz piano is an online course designed to help you master the art of creating simple, memorable jazz piano arrangements. Whether you're a beginner or looking to build a strong foundation, this course solves the challenge of forgetting concepts by focusing on one timeless jazz standard per month. By the end of 12 months, you'll confidently play and arrange jazz plano songs while mastering the core skills that make it all stick. Special offer! Enroll now and get a 35% discount ! Here's What You'll Get When You Sign UpAfter signing up for Easy Jazz Piano, you'll get access to the first lesson right away to help you stay focused and build steady progress. However, if you prefer, you can write in, and we'll unlock all jazz standards for you at once. Whether you want to focus on one song a month or work through multiple arrangements at your own pace, the choice is yours. Each lesson is designed to be approachable and easy to follow, no matter your schedule. By the end of the course, you'll receive and play your own memorable jazz piano, you'll receive and skills to create and play your own memorable jazz piano, you'll receive and skills to create and play your own memorable jazz piano arrangements. Detailed Sheet MusicWith Easy Jazz Piano, you'll receive and skills to create and play your own memorable jazz piano arrangements. detailed sheet music for every lesson, providing a clear roadmap to play and create beautiful jazz arrangements. Whether a beginner or a pro, these professionally notated scores make learning enjoyable. iRealPro FilesWith Easy Jazz Piano, you'll also get iRealPro FilesWith Easy Jazz Piano, you'll also tempos, change keys, or create your own arrangements to make your practice sessions even more dynamic and tailored to your needs. Here's what students are saying about the course I have been trying to learn how to play jazz standards for quite some time. My goal is to be able to play the piano using some cool sounds and not sound hokey. Willie has so much material on his website, there is always something new to learn. He also presents the material in a way that makes it easy to understand so that you can use them on many tunes. Back in 2009, a friend showed me a promo video for Willie's Jazz Piano method. I was impressed and decide to inquire about it. Five years of learning with Willie has expanded my horizons exponentially. Willie is an incredible teacher! His method of breaking down concepts and songs is excellent. My name is Beasley Reece. I'm a former NFL player and currently the Sports Anchor for CBS3 TV in Philadelphia. I would like to thank Willie for unlocking the mysteries that have held my Piano advancement in a stagnant place for many years. Willie's teaching method and the interactive website made the difference for me. Jazz Standards You'll LearnEasy Jazz Piano includes 12 modules, each focused on a timeless jazz standard. I've Never Been in Love BeforeDiscover the charm of this classic by exploring basic chord shells to create a smooth and elegant accompaniment. Fly Me To The MoonDive into the iconic progression of this standard, crafting rich sounds with simple shell-based voicings. Use shells to emphasize rhythmic bounce and swing, making your arrangement lively and fun. TenderlyLearn to create flowing, romantic accompaniments by breaking up shells for a gentle, lyrical feel. Softly, as in a Morning SunriseExperiment with dynamic contrasts and rhythmic syncopation while keeping your arrangement grounded in shells. Body and SoulMaster expressive voicings and transitions using chord shells to bring this ballad to life. Here's That Rainy DayFocuse on smooth left-hand motion and subtle right-hand fills to create an introspective arrangement. There Will Never Be Another YouExplore melodic motion within shells and a light bossa-feel to highlight the song's upbeat, hopeful vibe. Angel EyesBuild tension and release through minor chord shells, creating a hauntingly beautiful arrangement. A Foggy DayUse shells to capture the song's lighthearted, whimsical character with ease. Darn That DreamRefine your use of space and dynamics, adding richness with broken shell patterns. TristeEnd your journey by mastering lush, flowing shells to create a truly memorable performance. BonusFree Bonuses Included With Any Membership:Included with every Easy Jazz Piano membership, you'll receive these bonuses designed to help you master the concepts and take your piano playing to the next level. Bonus 1Jazz Piano Blueprint, an essential guide designed to take your from scratch to confidently creating your own jazz arrangements. This bonus course breaks everything down step-by-step, teaching you: Chord Shell Creation: The foundation of jazz harmony, simplified for easy learning. Comping Techniques: Learn how to play rhythmically and stylishly, just like the pros. Simple Arrangement Skills: Create beautiful, functional arrangements for any jazz standard with ease. The Jazz Piano Blueprint complements everything you're starting fresh or strengthening your basics, this bonus resource will help you achieve even greater results! \$49 Value (Included FREE) Bonus 2The Confident Improviser^M Mini Course is perfect for taking your jazz skills to the next level, focusing on: Improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock your creativity and improviser^M Mini Course, a powerful resource to help you unlock yo lines and express yourself musically.Essential Jazz Vocabulary: Build a library of licks and phrases to use in your solos.Practical Application. The Confident Improviser[™] Mini Course is the perfect complement to your main lessons, giving you the confidence to add your personal touch to every performance. Whether you're just starting to improvise or want to strengthen your skills, this bonus will set you up for creative success! \$65 Value (Included FREE) About The Course Teacher, Willie MyetteWillie is a renowned jazz pianist and educator with decades of experience in both performance and teaching. As the creator of numerous successful online piano courses, he has helped thousands of students around the world master the art of jazz piano. Willie's teaching style focuses on simplifying complex techniques and making jazz accessible to players of all levels. His approachable demeanor and passion for music create a friendly and encouraging learning environment. Whether you're a beginner or an experienced player, Willie's guidance will help you confidently take your jazz piano skills to the next level. Here's what students have to say... The Value of Learning jazz piano according to the next level. Here's what students have to say... The Value of Learning jazz piano according to the next level. Here's what students have to break the bank, but let's put things into perspective: Private Lessons: A single hour of private jazz piano instruction can cost \$100 or more, adding up to over \$5,000 a year for weekly lessons. University Courses: Enrolling in a music program can easily cost \$20,000 to \$1,500 for just a weekend of training. Easy Jazz Piano offers the same foundational skills and practical tools as these high-cost options but at a fraction of the price. With lifetime access, professional resources, and real-world jazz piano. MINI courseFull access to the first three lessons 1 Year of AccessSpecial Offer: Save 35% (Regularly \$130) 1 Full Year of Access Immediate Start Download All Sheet MusicDownload All Backing TracksIncludes First Three LessonsIncludes BONUSES (\$114 value)Does not auto-renew! Enroll Now in Mini Course FULL courseFull access to all 12 lessons 1 Year of Access Special Offer: Save 35% (Regularly \$265) 1 Full Year of Access Immediate Start Download All Sheet Music Download All Backing TracksIncludes All 12 LessonsIncludes BONUSES (\$114 value) Does not auto-renew! Enroll Now in Full Course 100% Satisfaction Guarantee for 30-DaysWe want you to feel the course isn't the right fit for you, simply reach out within 30 days of purchase, and we'll issue a full refund—no questions asked. Our goal is to help you succeed and enjoy learning jazz piano, risk-free. So, take the leap and start your journey with complete peace of mind! Don't wait! Look at what past students have to say: Willie's teaching method and the interactive website made the difference for me.My name is Beasley Reece. I'm a former NFL player and currently the Sports Anchor for CBS3 TV in Philadelphia. I would like to thank Willie for unlocking the mysteries that have held my Piano advancement in a stagnant place for many years. Willie's teaching method and the interactive website made the difference for me. There is always something new to learn how to play jazz standards for quite some time. My goal is to be able to play the piano using some cool sounds and not sound hokey. Willie has so much material on his website, there is always something new to learn. He also presents the material in a way that makes it easy to understand so that practicing isn't a difficult task. He will teach you concepts so that you can use them on many tunes. Willie's Jazz Piano method. I was impressed and decide to inquire about it. Five years of learning with Willie has expanded my horizons exponentially. Willie is an incredible teacher! His method of breaking down concepts and songs is excellent. Frequently Asked Questions This course is perfect for beginners and early intermediate players who want to learn how to create simple jazz arrangements without years of practice. Absolutely not! Since the lessons move slowly and are step by step you wont get lost. Plus the included practice actions make it easy to practice along with me so you are never lost! No! The course is self-paced, so you can move as quickly or slowly as you'd like. Lessons are released one per month which allows you to focus your practice without getting overwhelmed. While not required, the iRealPro app is recommended for customizing practice tracks. Lessons are released monthly, starting from your sign-up date, to help you stay focused and avoid feeling overwhelmed. If you'd prefer immediate access to all lessons, contact us at support@jazzedge.com, and we'll be happy to assist! Yes! The included backing tracks and comping techniques are designed to prepare you for playing in ensembles or jam sessions. You'll be able to confidently create and play simple jazz arrangements, use chord shells, and comp effectively in any jazz setting. MINI courseFull access to the first three lessons 1 Year of AccessSpecial Offer: Save 35% (Regularly \$130) 1 Full Year of Access Immediate Start Download All Sheet MusicDownload All Sheet MusicDown 35% (Regularly \$265) 1 Full Year of Access Immediate Start Download All Sheet Music Download All be. This course is designed to make it simple, enjoyable, and achievable for anyone, no matter where you're start creating from. I truly believe you have what it takes to play beautiful jazz arrangements that you'll be proud of—and I'm here to guide you every step of the way. Don't let hesitation hold you back. Sign up today, and let's start creating music you'll love and remember for a lifetime! I can't wait to see you succeed. To play most styles of music all you need to know is how to read music... But Jazz is different. To play Jazz piano, you have to know some music theory first... In this article I'll show you all the beginner Jazz theory you need to know is how to read music... But Jazz is different. To play most styles of music all you need to know some music theory first... In this article I'll show you all the beginner Jazz theory you need to know is how to read music... But Jazz is different. To play most styles of music all you need to know is how to read music... But Jazz is different. scales, and chord progressions. Let's dive in! Fake Books To play Jazz piano you'll need two things: A piano and a Fake book (also called a 'real book'). A Fake book (also called a 'real book'). A Fake book is a collection of lead sheets to different jazz songs. However the notated using a single melody line in the treble clef (there's no bass clef usually). Then chord symbols will be written above the melody line (most chords will end with a '7'): The Jazz pianist can 'voice' these chords in many different ways, so instead of telling you which chord voicings to play, chord symbols gives you the freedom to choose. You'll need to understand what all jazz piano chord symbols mean in order to play songs from a real book, and I'll explain these in a moment. FREE RESOURCE: Download my Complete Real Book Guide - which shows you the top 4 real books I use and recommend. Prerequisites to Jazz To learn Jazz, you first need to know how to count intervals... 'Interval' refers to the distance between C and E is a 'major 3rd'. The 'interval' between C and B is a 'major 3rd'. The 'interval' between C and B is a 'major 3rd, 4th, tritone, 5th, minor 6th, major 6th, minor 7th, major 7th, and octave. To start learning and playing Jazz piano, you need to be able to count a minor 3rd + major 3rd + minor 3rd from C). If you already know the 12 intervals and you can count these from all 12 notes, then continue reading. However, if you're new to intervals, click here to watch my 'Interval Arithmetic' video first. 7th Chords you see in your real book will be 7th chords is a normal major or minor triad (C E G) with a 7th added on top (B). So the chord is a stack of 3rds - it plays every other note from the scale: E.g. Play C - skip F - play B. Let's look at the three main types of 7th chord (which make up about 80% of jazz): C major 7 = C E G B (written as 'C maj 7' or 'CA') - 7th chord built from the major scale. C minor 7 = C E B G Bb (written as 'C min 7' or 'C-7') - 7th chord built from the minor scale. C dominant 7 = C E G Bb (written as 'C7') - major chord with a minor 7th on top. That leaves us with three remaining 7th chords (less commonly used): C half-diminished (aka 'C minor 7 flat 5') = C Eb Gb Bb (written as 'C7') - diminished triad with a minor 7th on top. minor 7th. C diminished 7 = C Eb Gb Bbb (written as 'C^o7') - a complete stack of minor 3rds. C minor-major 7 = C Eb G B (written as 'C mino' or 'C-Δ') - minor chord with a major 7th on top. PRACTICE TIP: Play all six 7th chords from each of the 12 notes on the piano. Make sure you count the interval pattern carefully for each note. Do not try to remember these by their note names - always count the intervals. For a complete list of all Jazz chords, download my Chord Symbol Guide (it's free): Download it here. Chord Extensions Jazz chords are built in 3rds, and we can continue building this stack of 3rds beyond the 7th: 1 - 3 - 5 - 7 - 9 - 11 - 13 (or C - E - G - B - D - F - A). The 9th, 11th, and 13th are called 'chord extensions'. Some chord symbols will tell you to add a chord extensions are always built from the major scale - regardless of what type of chord it is (even if it's a minor 7 chord). So for any type of C chord (C maj 7, C min 7, C7, etc) - if you want to add a 9th, or 11th, or 13th, just run up the notes of C major scale until you find your chord extension (C D E F G A B): The 9th is the same note as the 2nd = D. The 11th is the same note as the 4th = F. And the 13th is the same note as the 6th = A. To find the correct chord extension, you must be able to build the major scale from any note. Altered or sharpened (e.g. 'b9', '#11', 'b13'). When a chord symbol tells you to add an altered extension, start by finding the natural D + A# That's it - chord extensions explained! The 2-5-1 Chord Progression Every style of music has its own characteristic chord progression. In jazz, the most common chord progression, and the numbers '2 5 1' refer to which note in the scale the chord is built from. Let's look at the ii-V-I chord progression in the key of C major: Each chord in the ii-V-I is a 7th chord (1 3 5 7), and is built from the notes of C major scale. So the ii chord will be C E G B - that's a C major 7 chord. KEY POINT: As you look through the songs in your real book, most of the chord symbols above the music will form this ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord - (goes down a 5th) - Will use the same ii-V-I pattern: Minor 7 chord progression played through a series of different keys. Left-Hand Chord Voicings As a beginner, this how I suggest you play the ii-V-I in your left hand: Notice that I'm playing the V7 chord in 2nd inversion - which means I've taken the top 2 notes (D and F) and moved them down an octave. also creating smooth voice leading. TIP: To play this ii-V-I pattern, all you have to do is build the minor 7 chord first. Then move your top two notes stay the same (D and F). Finally, move the bottom two notes down to the I chord's root and 3rd (C and E) while the top notes stay the same (G and B). PRACTICE CHALLENGE: Learn to play the ii-V-I using this exact voicing pattern through all 12 keys. Challenge yourself to play it note-perfectly through all 12 keys. three times in a row! The Minor 2-5-1 There is also a minor ii-V-I chord progression which is less commonly used (it makes up roughly 10% of the ii-V-Is in your real book). The minor ii-V-I builds its chords from the harmonic minor scale (instead of the major scale). So a ii-V-I in C minor is built from C harmonic minor scale: This time the ii chord is a half-diminished chord in a jazz song, it will probably be the ii chord of a minor ii-V-I. And if if you see a minor-major 7 chord, it's likely the i chord of a minor ii-V-i. 2-5-1 Variations' that jazz composers will use. Sometimes you'll get a 'V-I' seen here in Benny Goodman's 'Stompin' At The Savoy': In these 'partial ii-V-I' examples, the song changes to a new key before there's time to play all three chords of the ii-V-I. FREE RESOURCE: Download my Beginner Jazz Songs List (33 songs). Jazz Improvisation It's common for jazz musicians to play an improvised solo over the song's chords. This usually happens in the middle of the song - in-between the song's melody which is played at the beginning and ending (melody - solos - melody). To play a solo, you must know which notes to play from. A good place to start is to play the chord tones of each chord in your melody (1 3 5 7) - this technique is called 'chord tone soloing': Notice how the melody above is built from the chord tones of each chord (1 3 5 7). FREE RESOURCE: Download my 29 Jazz Piano Licks sheet music. Jazz scales In addition to 'chord tone soloing', you can also compose melodies from entire scales. Each type of 7th chord implies a different scale, and it's common for jazz musicians to change scale with every new chord (unlike other styles of music which tend to stay in one key for long periods of time). "How do you know which scale to play from?" While there are many scales you can play over each chord, a good starting point is the 'chord tone + whole-step' principle: Start by looking at the chord symbol and putting its chord tones in your scale (1 3 5 7). So for a C major 7 chord, you'd start with C - E - G - B. Next, add a whole-step above the root, 3rd and 5th. So for C major 7, you'd add D, F# and A to your scale. This results in playing C Lydian scale (C D E F# G A B) which sounds great over a C major 7 chord. You can use this 'chord tone + whole-step' technique for any chord (min 7, V7, ø, etc) and it generates sophisticated-sounding jazz scales every time! Watch this lesson To go with this article I filmed a video lesson so you can see the techniques in action: Chord Symbol Guide >> Lesson Summary Well done! In this epic beginner Jazz lesson we covered: Fake books The six types of 7th chord (maj 7, min 7, V7, Ø, ^Q7, min-Δ). Chord extensions (9th, 11ths, 13ths) The ii-V-I chord progression (major & minor versions) Jazz piano improvisation using 'chord tone soloing' Jazz scales using the 'chord tone soloing' Jazz piano improvisation using 'chord tone soloing' Jazz piano improvisation using 'chord tone soloing' Jazz piano improvisation using 'chord tone soloing' Jazz piano sheet music? Includes '29 Jazz Licks' (sheet music) 'The Chord Voicing Guide' (ebook) 'Sweet Chord Progressions and Riffs' (sheet music) Send me this Julian Bradley is a Jazz pianoist and music educator from the U.K. He has a masters degree in music composition and loves helping musicians learn Jazz piano and reach their music goals. YouTube channel. If you want to learn how to play jazz piano but are not sure where to start, you've come to the right place! In this beginner jazz lesson, we'll cover the absolute basics any aspiring jazz pianist should know: swing rhythm, the 2-5-1 chord progression, comping rhythms, and how to read a lead sheet and apply these concepts. Now, jazz piano isn't easy! But it sounds so good and is so rewarding. We want you to get excited about playing jazz piano, so this lesson is suitable for piano, Inspiring tutorials, Fascinating articles, Exclusive interviews, We create piano content anyone, anywhere can enjoy for free, Don't miss out, sign up for more free lessons, You can download the exercises we'll use in this lesson right here: DOWNLOAD PDF RESOURCES Pianote Me sheet to "Satin Doll." If you're not a Member yet, no problem! Here's a seven-day trial just for you: TRY PIANOTE FOR 7 DAYS Rhythm is an essential part of jazz. While classical and pop music tend to follow a "straight" rhythm, jazz rhythm is an essential part of jazz. swing rhythm goes more like this: 1... + 2... + 3... + 4... + You can think of this as playing long-short, etc. The easiest way to understand swing is to feel it. Listen to some jazz and move with the beat! For the theory nerds, what we're essentially doing is playing two eighth notes like the first and last note of a triplet. You can also think of it as a quarter note followed by an eighth note in the space of a triplet. Try playing the C major scale in a swing rhythm. Here's a C major scale in repeated eighth notes with fingering. Another pillar of jazz piano? The 2-5-1 chord progression. This is a chord progression. This is a chord progression built on the second, fifth, and first notes of the scale. So, if we're in C major, we build chords on D, G, and C and apply C major's key signature to them. When we do this with seventh chords, we get: Dm7 - G7 - Cmaj7 The easiest way to transition between these chords is by using inversions. Try this: Need a little more time? The 2-5-1 chord progression is a core jazz concept and is worth extra practice. If you're new to chords and chord progressions, check out these lessons: A comping rhythm you can use with your chords to accompany a song. Here's a classic jazz comping rhythm you can use with your 2-5-1 progression. Notice we play the first chord of the measure on the "and" or off-beat. This is just one example of a comping rhythm. There's an infinite variety of comping rhythms you can play on the piano. Try making up your own, or listen to your favorite tunes for some inspiration. You can also get inspiration. You can also get inspiration from your rhythm section if you're playing sheet music arrangements for solo piano, lead sheets may look a little different! But they're guite simple to read. A lead sheet shows the melody of a song and chord symbols where chords with your left. It's usually a good idea to master this basic way of playing before you add fancy stuff like improvisation and reharmonization. Reading lead sheets requires some knowledge of chord symbols. We have an in-depth cheat sheet/guide, but here's a quick rundown of what common chord symbols mean: Chord Cmaj7C-E-G-BMajor triad with an added major 7th ChordCmaj7C-E-G-BMajor triad with an added minor 7th interval.Dominant 7th ChordG7G-B-D-FMajor triad with an added minor 7th interval.Diminished 7th ChordD#dim7D#-F#-A-CStack of minor thirds.Learn more about different types of 7th chords here. How to Get Lead Sheets: Most lead sheets are copyrighted and will cost a few dollars, but you can download them online through sites like Sheet Music Direct, Musicnotes, or Musescore. You can also buy a Real Book, which is a compiled "bible" of the most popular jazz skills. Specifically, you've learned how to: Swing Play the 2-5-1 chord progression Use a comping rhythm with your chords Read a lead sheet Now let's put these skills towards learning our first jazz standard: "Satin Doll" by Duke Ellington. First, get to know your right-hand melody. There's a lot of syncopation, so if you get stuck, try breaking the rhythm into smaller units. You'll notice that we land on some notes on the off-beat (the "and"). In jazz, we call this a push Before we put our hands together, get your left-hand chords solid too. Practice transitioning between the chords and if you're using inversions, practice transitioning between these chords. You'll find 2-5-1s everywhere in jazz ("Autumn Leaves," "Summertime," "Fly Me to the Moon" etc.), so being able to play these shapes in your sleep will go a long way! Next, put your right and left hands together. This requires some skill in hand independence, so if you're a beginner, it will take some time. But you'll get it, we promise! It just takes practice. At this point, you've got the basics and it's time to have fun. Remember that comping rhythm we learned for the 2-5-1 progression? Try using that with "Satin Doll." And when you can take a simple melody and make it your own. The lead sheet to "Satin Doll" may look simple, but there is so much you can do with it. To get inspired, look up expert jazz pianists playing their own take on the song. For example, watch how Oscar Peterson uses rhythmic variety, dynamics, scales, glissandos, tremolos, and more in his rendition. Happy practicing! The best way to learn piano is with real teachers, but not everyone has the time and money for a private instructor At Pianote, you can get real feedback from real experts...all from the comfort of your own home. Explore our Method and community yourself with a free 7-day trial.TRY PIANOTE FOR 7 DAYS Are you a beginner jazz piano player who needs advice on where to start?You're in the right place.In this lesson today, we're going to teach you the basics of what every aspiring jazz pianist must know to sound great playing jazz. You're going to explore 2 great songs to start your beginner jazz piano training. Let's go! How Herbie Kickstarts Beginner Jazz Piano If you're like me who started out with classical and rock, this is the first song you should learn. It's a tune called "Watermelon Man" by Herbie Hancock. Why start with Herbie Hancock? Herbie wonderful playing style features elements of jazz, blues, gospel, rock, gospel, rock, gospel, rock, gospel, and classical music. 'So, not matter your musical background you'll find something delightful about Herbie's style. And his tune "Watermelon Man" is a perfect example of a tune that merges different styles. Plus, it has a super fun melody, great rhythm, and great chords. So, lets dig into the tune now. 1. Why Listening Is The 1st thing we want to do is listen to at least 2 versions of Watermelon Man here: Now, why do you have to listen a song first? This is because jazz is what we call and aural artform. Before you can play it, you need to have a mental picture of the song inside your mind. Later, if you decide to look at a chord chart or a lead sheet you'll be able to play the song with a lot more emotion and personality. Remember, it's always best to play what you can hear inside your mind. Now that you've listened to Watermelon Man, learn its melody. 2. Beginner Jazz Piano Step 2: Learn The Melody Here's a lead sheet for "Watermelon Man": Lead sheets are often straightforward and simple transcriptions of a tune's melody plus its chords. Now, do you remember how those various versions of "Watermelon Man" sounded? Interestingly, recorded performances never sound as square as what's written on a lead sheet. As a beginner jazz piano player, know that jazz is mostly an aural rather than a written musical tradition. In many cases, rhythmic treatment of melody can vary a lot. However, it should still sound like "Watermelon Man". Otherwise, there's no song. Expressive. And so, here are the steps how to learn jazz piano melodies: Listen to various recorded versions. Remember to listen well for accents. Sing or hum the melody with your right hand. Now that you know how to figure out melodies, let's talk about chords. 3. Learn Chord Voicings For Watermelon Man One of the biggest aspects of jazz is harmony. Therefore, beginner jazz chords, learn these important left hand chord voicings: Seventh chords - Examples of these are major 7ths, and dominant 7ths. Shell voicings - Popularized by Bud Powell, shell voicings are just either a root and a 7th or a root and 3rd. Rootless voicings - If you have a big enough hand span these kind of voicings will sound awesome as block chords. If you have a small hand span, you can use spread voicings in arpeggios. Quartal harmony a lot. Power chords - Simply the root and 5th of any chord. Another technique that McCoy Tyner used. He tends to switch between power chords and quartal chords with his left hand during solos and comping. If you're brand new to jazz chords we have a step by step course that will teach you how to play songs you love in as little as 30-60 days. You can grab a copy of the program right here. After learning some of the program right here. these chords voicings, learn the chord progression of Watermelon Man and add the melody. Now, let's look into playing the tune with both hands. 4. How To Put The Melody And Chords and the melody, here's how you put it all together. Play the melody while playing block chords with the left hand. Simply playa the chord once and hold it throughout its entire duration as indicated in the lead sheet. Learn the song this way bar or phrase by phrase. Once you are able to play the tune along the tune along with a backing track that has great groove at a reasonable tempo By doing this, you're halfway towards learning jazz piano. However, there's more to it than just putting melody and comping patterns together. 5. How To Improvise Over The Chord Changes Another very important jazz component is improvisation. In fact, it's so important that there's a Grammy award for the best recorded improvised jazz solo every year. Improvise for real over Watermelon Man, there are two approaches: Use chord tone soloing. The jazz scales approach. In a nutshell, how do you do it? How To Improvise With Chord Tones Let's say you are about to play over the C7 chord on bar 9. Here's what you can do: Use only the chord tones (C, E, G, and Bb) to come up with a melodic idea on the spot. Create musical, nonlinear patterns out of the nearest chord tones (C, E, G, and Bb) to come up with a melodic idea on the spot. Since your last note is G, you can easily target Ab (the b7 of the Bb7 chord). Rinse and repeat for the other chords of the tune. Check out this video of Steve teaching how to improvise using chord tones: Before going to the use of scales, let's look into the pro improviser's aesthetic. How Do Pros Approach Improvisation? Here are 5 things that pros do during improviser's aesthetic. String musical ideas together to form a solo. Start with a simple idea and then gradually increase in complexity. Using pauses and rests are equally important (good phrasing). Only play ideas that you can hear in your head. Play ideas that are easy for you to execute instantly. Keep this in mind and you'll be able to improvise solos seemingly without effort. Now let's get into beginner jazz piano improvisation with scales. How To Use Jazz Scales are used as devices to connect one musical ideas. To get started with using scales in improv, learn the blues scale in this scales are used as devices to connect one musical ideas. video by Steve: There are tons of other jazz scales you can learn. Here are some important ones to learn: Major scales Minor scales Since we've explored scales at this point, this has to be said: Scales sound just like an exercise if overdone. Given that is the case, focus on targeting chord tones and using scales occasionally to connect ideas together. Now it's time for you to figure out how to go deeper. How To Dig Even Deeper Into Jazz Improvisation Start learning how to do these by listening to great improvisers like Oscar Peterson and Barry Harris. If you want a step by step proven formula to become a great improvisation Super System here. Now that you've gone System here. Now that you've gone to create beautiful melodies & improvisation. Get instant access to the Jazz Improvisation Super System here. through Watermelon Man, let's check out another song. How Fly Me To The Moon": "Fly Me To The Moon" is one of the best jazz standards to start out with because: First, you'll learn the most important chord progression in jazz (other than the blues chord progression): the 2-5-1. Second, you'll go through a circle chord progression i.e. you get to encounter all of the chords in a given key. Third, the melody is really memorable. Lastly, it's one of the most recognizable tunes in the jazz canon. It something that most of your listeners will dig into. How To Learn Fly Me To The Moon When tackling how to learn "Fly Me To The Moon", you'll follow the same 5 steps earlier: Listen to various versions of the tune repeatedly. Learn the melody. Learn the melody. Learn the melody. Learn the melody and chords together. piano tunes, it's time for you to move a level higher. The Best Way To Transition Into Jazz It's not a stretch of the imagination that you find jazz piano to be one tough cookie. Otherwise, you would not have stumbled on this article. Perhaps you tried some tutorials on Instagram and YouTube, only to find yourself more frustrated than ever before. It's a good thing that you're here though. If you've read all this way through, you've done your first step and you're ready for more To Jazz Piano Hero. Inside Zero To Jazz Piano Hero, you'll discover: A step-by-step method to go from zero to playing the songs you love in 30 to 60 days. How to unlock amazing chord progression formulas that you'll find in hundreds of classic jazz songs. Piano Technique Secrets To Get Your Fingers Flying Across The Keyboard With Ease And more. Get instant access to Zero To Jazz Piano Hero here. I hope you all enjoyed that lesson enough to get you started on your jazz journey. Feel free to ask a question or leave a comment below. Happy practicing. Share - copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt - remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation. No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Instructor Jonny May Skill Level Beginner Intermediate Learning Focus Accompanying Analysis Chords Exercises Improvisation Scales Music Style Fundamentals Jazz Ballads Jazz Swing Latin Jazz Get free weekly lessons, practice tips, and downloadable resources to your inbox! Are you a complete beginner who would like to learn a million scales, arpeggios, and chords to play jazz right away. even if you have zero piano playing experience. In this beginner jazz piano, including: How to play beginner jazz piano, including: How to play beginner jazz piano, including: How to play beginner jazz piano improv 3 essential beginner jazz improvisation techniques and beginner exercises How to improvise a jazz solo By the end of this lesson, you will have a firm grasp for jazz foundations. You will undertand basic jazz harmony, how jazz chord progressions work, and best of all, how to express yourself freely by improvising jazz piano. Let's dive in. Beginner Jazz Piano Step 1: Know Your Key If you are a complete beginner and want to play jazz piano, the first step is to understand what a key is. By understanding what a key is, you will fully understand where jazz melodies and chords come from. What is a music key? A music key is simply a set of 7 notes that we call a Major Scales. Scales are important because they are used to create melodies and chords. For today's beginner jazz piano lesson, you will use one of the easiest keys or scales of them. It's time to learn your C Major Scale I you read sheet music, here are the notes: C Major Scale I you read sheet music, here Scale notation (If you don't read sheet music, you can learn from our Smart Sheet Music. This shows a digital light-up keyboard alongside the sheet music.) As you can see, they are all white notes. It's important to play this scale up and down the piano because it will help you remember the scale. You can use any fingers you want, but the goal will be to memorize all of the notes from the C Major Scale. You can test yourself what the note is. Here is a quick video to summarize this section: If you want to do a deep dive and learn all of your note names, beginner exercises, stretches, and how to read basic notation, checkout our Introduction to the Keyboard Course. Now that you will learn your first jazz chords, but how do jazz pianists play such beautiful sounding chords? The first step is to understand how chords are built. How Chords are built simply by picking one note of the C Major scale and stacking notes by skipping every other note. For example, if you start on the note C, skip the D, and play the E, you have a 3rd spacing, or "interval": 3rd interval 3rd interval notation Major Chord Next, you can add another note on top of the E by skipping the F and playing the F and playing the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the F and playing the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F and playing the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the G, which gives you a happy major chord top of the E by skipping the F the G. As a result, this is what our final chord looks like: C Major 7 Chord for beginner jazz piano C Major 7 chord notation This chord is starting to sound jazzy! This chor because it is the 7th note of a C Major Scale. In other words, if you start on the bottom note C and count up 7 notes, you will end up on the 8. Therefore, we call this chord a Major 7 chord because it is a major chord with the addition of the 7th note of the scale. Not too confusing, right? Here's a quick review of this section: If you don't know your major and minor chords, you can learn all of them in our Level 1 Foundations Learning Track. You can also learn all of your 7th chords in our Level 2 Foundations Learning Track. Now that you know how to build a 7th chords in our Level 2 Foundations Learning Track. music, you have multiple chords on a song, but how do composers choose which chords to use? There are many different techniques that composers can use to decide which chords, or diatonic chords. What are diatonic chords? Diatonic chords are beginner-level chords that belong to the key that you can build a 7th chord on any note from the D. 2 Chord If you start on the low D and skip every other note, you end up with the notes D F A and C: 2 chord in C (D Minor 7) In jazz, we call this our 2 chord because this chord is built on the second note of the C Major Scale. The technical names for these chords. If you do want to learn the technical names of these chords and master them in all keys, you can in our Minor 7 Chords Theory & Application course. The most important thing is that you understand the concept that chords are built on notes from the scale by skipping thirds. 3 Chord Next, you can continue using this idea for all of the C Major Scale. For example, if we build a 7th chord on the 3rd note of the C Major Scale, we have the notes E G B D: 3 chord in C (E Minor 7) 4 Chord The 4 chord is built we build a chord on the 4th note of the C Major Scale, we have F A C E: 4 chord in C (G Dominant 7) 5 Chord If we build a chord on the 5th note of the C Major Scale, we have the notes G B D F: 5 chord in C (G Dominant 7) 7 Chord Finally, if we build a chord on the 7th note of the C Major Scale, we have the notes B D F A: 7 chord in C (B Diminished 7) To summarize the above concepts, here is the sheet music for the diatonic chords: Diatonic chords notation Most jazz musicians will simply refer to these chords as numbers. For example, the C chord will be called the 1 chord, the D is the 2 chord, the E is the 3 chord, etc. With this numbering system, jazz is simplified and musicians don't have to "think" too much about the chords in all 12 major keys, you can in our Level 1 Foundations Learning Track. You can learn all of your diatonic 7th chords in all 12 keys in our Diatonic 7th Chord Exercises. Now that you know the diatonic chords in the key of C Major, next you will learn the most important progression. Beginner Jazz Piano Step 4: 2-5-1 Chord Progression If you are a beginner Jazz Piano student, it is critical that you learn the most important chord progression in jazz music: the 2-5-1 chord progression? The 2-5-1 chord progression? The 2-5-1 chord progression is a jazz chord progression? The 2-5-1 chord pro sheet music for the 2-5-1 progression: 2-5-1 chord progression notation Pretty simple, huh? It's important to practice jumping to each of these chords because they are used all the time when playing jazz. For example, the 2-5-1 is used on jazz standards like Fly Me to the Moon, Autumn Leaves, and The Way You Look Tonight. By the way, you can learn each of the above songs in our Autumn Trees and The Way You Look at Me courses. Here's a quick summary of this section: Now that you know your 2-5-1 chord progression, next you'll want to simplify your chord progression so that you don't need to jump between chords. You can do this with chord inversions. Beginner jazz piano, you don't want to have to "think" too much about the left hand chords when improvising a beginner jazz solo. Therefore, you want your chords to be as close together as possible so that you don't have to look at your left hand while it jumps between chords. You can do this with a chord inversion? A chord inversion is when we take a chord and change the order of notes. For example, if you take your 5 chord in the key of C (G B D F), you can move the top two notes (D F) to the bottom of the chord: 5 chord inversion because we re-arranged the order of notes. We use a chord inversion to minimize the jumping between chords. For example, if you look at the first 2 chords in the 2-5-1 chord progression (D to G), there is a big jump. However, if we use the G chord inversion, there is minimal movement between chords. Below is an example of what our 2-5-1 sounds like now: Now, the chords are much closer together, and we can play the full 2-5-1 chord progression without having to think too much about the chords. As a result, you can solo more freely in our right hand and focus on playing our beginner jazz improvisation. Here is the notation for the 2-5-1 with the chord inversion for you can watch a summary of this section in the video below: If you want to learn more about the 2-5-1 chord progression and play it in the most important inversions, you can in our 2-5-1 7th Chord Exercises course. Adding 1 Additional Chord The final step to making this jazz progression. With 4 chords, the chord progression will feel more complete because most music is divided intro groupings of 2. Chord Substitute to make the progression a little more interesting. One of the best chord substitutes you can use for a 7th chord is a 6th chord because the 6th and 7th notes of the C Major 7, the B, with the 6th note of the C Major 8 and 7 th notes of the C Major 7, the B, with the 6th note of the C Major 8 and 7 th notes of the C Major 8 and 8 2-5-1 progression: Here is the notation for the final 2-5-1 chord progression: Complete 2-5-1 chord progression for beginner jazz piano Nice work! Here are some pointers for this section: Now that you have a solid left hand accompaniment to practice your right hand improvisations over, it's important to increase your speed to about 130BPM. Once you reach the full tempo, play along with the included backing track, which you can download on this page after logging into your membership. Congratulation! You're half-way through the lesson. Now that you've learned the most important progression in beginner jazz plano improv, next it's time to learn now to solo, or improvise! Beginner jazz Piano Step 6: The Major Blues Scale Improvise a jazz solo. To improvise a swinging jazz solo over the 2-5-1 chord progression I recommend using the Major Blues Scale. What is the Major Blues Scale? The Major Blues Scale, or Gospel Scale, is a 6-note scale consisting of the notes C D Eb E G A: C Major Blues Scale for beginner jazz piano C Major Scale: 1 2 3 5 6. However, we are adding an Eb to this, which we would call the flat 3, or b3. This is one of the most important scales that you should learn as a beginner jazz pianist because you can use it on just about any song or style. For a great Quick Tip on using this scale when improvising beginner jazz because it works over all of the chords from the 2-5-1. Additionally, it adds a very cool "bluesy" sounding note, the Eb. With this bluesy note, you get a nice balance of happy notes that belong to the scale, and the "darker" more "dissonant" note that comes from the Eb. For a deep dive on how to use the Major Blues Scale For today's beginner jazz piano lesson, we're going to shift one of the scale down to make soloing a little easier. You can accomplish this by placing the top note of the scale down to make soloing a little easier. You can accomplish this by placing the top note of the scale down to make soloing a little easier. You can accomplish this by placing the top note of the scale down to make soloing a little easier. shifted notation Remember that these are the exact same scales. We are simply starting on a different note so that improvising with this scale, you'll need to learn the two grip positions. Grip 1 The first grip uses the top 3 notes of the C Major Blues Scale. Because we shifted our scale so that G is the top note, the top 3 notes of the scale are Eb E and G: Grip 1 Here is the notation for Grip 1: Grip 1 notation for Grip 1: Grip 1 notation for beginner jazz piano Play these notes together using your index, middle finger, and pinkie. We call these fingers 2, 3, and 5. You can even practice going up and down the the notes of this positions: Grip 1 exercise notation Here is a quick review of this section: Now that you've learned Grip 2. Grip 2 Grip 2 Grip 2 Grip 2 notation for beginner jazz piano Play these notes together using your thumb, index finger, and ring finger. We call these fingers 1 2 3 and 4. You can even practice this grip by playing the notes up and down: Grip 2 exercise notation You're sounding great! Now that you can play the two grips, practice shifting between both grips. You can do this by playing all of the notes of each grip at the same time and then jumping to the next grip: Shifting between Grip 1 and Grip 2 exercise notation For an summary of this section, checkout this short video: Now that you know your Major Blues scale and improvisation grips, you're ready to start improvising beginner jazz. You should start by first practicing 8th notes. Beginner Jazz Piano Step 7: 8th Notes If you analyze most professional jazz pianists improvisations, you'll discover that the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common note value that they use is the 8th notes are important because they sound the most common notes are important because they are important because they are important because the 8th notes are impo be harder for the audience to remember. Another example of a good melody is on that is singable. In other words, if you can sing back a melody, then it is probably a strong melody. On the other hand, you could use slower notes are the perfect balance between the extremes of slow and fast notes. Before you start improvising 8th notes, it's important to practice counting the 8th notes, every beat gets divided into two divisions. Here what 8th notes sound like: Normal 8th notes notation Swung 8th Notes Pretty simple, right? In jazz music, we do something kind of special with the 8th notes: we don't count them evenly. Instead of giving an equal amount of time between the "1" a little less time. In other words, the "1" is long, and the "&" is short. It's important to practice counting swung 8th notes for all of the beats by counting the "1, 2, 3, 4" long and all of the "ands" short. For example, here is what swung 8th notes is by thinking of them as triplets. When you count "1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a". In other words, every beat is divided into 3 notes. First, clap on every beat and say the above words, but skip all of the "ands". Here is what triplets sound like: Triplets Next, clap every beat and say the above words, but skip all of the "ands". Accompaniment course. Now that you understand the basic idea behind swing, let's make up some lines using our first grip. 8th Note Line Beginner Jazz Exercise For your first between Grip 1 and Grip 2: First chord (the 2 chord): play Grip 1 in this sequence: Eb E G Eb Eb E G Eb Eb E G Eb E Second chord (the 5 chord): switch to Grip 2 in this sequence Eb D C A Eb D C A. 3rd chord (1 chord): play a short phrase A C D C Eb D C. Here is how to play the right hand and left hand: If you can read sheet music, you can learn here: 8th note exercise for beginner jazz piano By the way, you can download the full lesson sheet music for this lesson on this page after logging into your membership. Improvising 8th Note Jazz Lines Now that you can play this 8th note line, try making up your own lines by using any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the note line, try making up your own lines by using any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes will sound good on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes will sound good on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of the notes will sound good on any of the notes from either of your grips on any of t chords. The trick is to leave little gaps in between your lines. In other words, you don't want to play musical "run-on sentences". It's also imporant to explore different starting points for each line. For example, sometimes you might start on a C, and other times you might start on a C. You really can't go wrong! Watch below for an overview of this section: If you want to do a deep dive on how to create interesting jazz lines, checkout our 10-Lesson Blues Challenge. Next, you're going to learn the second most common note value, triplets are a super fun way to improvise if you are a beginner jazz piano improvise if you are a beginner jazz piano improvise if you are a super fun way to improve and the super fun way to improve and the super function are a super fun way to improve and the super function are a super fun way to impr and excitement in your improvisation. What is a triplet? A triplet is when you divide a beat into 3 notes. In other words, you count each beat "1 & a 2 & a 3 & a 4 & a". For example, here is what the triplet rhythm sounds like: It's important to practice clapping and counting the triplets to make sure you have a good sense for them. Once you can do this, let's go over the jazz improv triplet exercise. Triplet Line Beginner Jazz Exercise For your second beginner jazz exercise, you will learn a triplet note line that shifts between Grip 1 and Grip 2: First chord (the 2 chord): play Grip 1 in this sequence: D# E G piano If you don't read sheet music, you can learn this phrase with our Smart Sheet Music, which shows you the notes with a digital light-up keyboard. You can also change the key with our Smart Sheet Music with the click of one button, allowing you to practice this entire lesson in any key. Improvising Triplet Jazz Lines Now that you have learned the triplet exercise, try creating your own licks. Remember that you can't play any wrong notes because all of the notes from the Major Blues Scale work with all of the chords. The only thing you can do wrong is to not be creative! Once you've started improvise, you might feeling adventurous to expand your solo into other octaves of the keyboard. In this case, you should practice your Gospel Scale in multiple octaves. You can learn this in our beginner Jazz Ballad Soloing Challenge. You can also try popping the chords in the left hand to add some groove. For example, many left accompaniment techniques from the Jazz Swing Accompaniment techniques from the sin our beginner Jazz Ballad Soloing Challenge. You can also try popping the chords in the left hand to add some groove. this section, watch below: Now that you've learned triplets, it's time to learn one final soloing technique: slides in your improvisation because this ads a bluesy sound to your solo. What is a blues slide? A blues slide is when you slide from from a neighboring note of the blues scale to one of the notes of the blues scale. In the case of the Major Blues Scale, there are 4 different slide you will learn is an up-slide to the E. The way you do this is to place your middle finger on D# and slide up to the E just above it with the same finger. Here is that the up-slide sounds like: Not too hard, right? Blues Slide #2 Blues Slide #2 is a down-slide from Eb to D. For this slide, place your middle finger on the Eb and slide down to the D with the same finger. Here is what the down-slide sounds like: Now that you've learned your two slides, next you should practice a slide exercise to master it. Slides Beginner Jazz Exercise For this beginner jazz exercise, we will explore slides: First chord (the 5 chord): up-slide E to G, up-slide E to G, down-slide D to C, down-slide D to C. 4th chord (the 1 chord): play the same line as above. Not too hard, right? Here's how the hands sound together: And if you read sheet music, here is the lesson sheet: Slide exercises to master your slides, checkout our 10-Lesson Blues Challenge. For a summary of this section, watch below: Now that you can play slides, it's important improvising your own beginner jazz lines using slides. Remember that you can use any slide in any order because both slides sound good on the 2-5-1 chord progression. Beginner jazz Piano Step 10: Putting It Together Now that you've learned your 3 improv techniques, how do you actually craft a sweet jazz solo with them? The key is to "tell a story" with your jazz improvisation where you solo builds. There are 3 key techniques to making your solo builds. There are 3 key techniques to making your solo builds. keyboard on the second round of the solo and use more 8th notes and maybe some harmony notes. Third, I recommend playing in the upper range of the keyboard and using more triplets and harmonies on the third time through the solo. If you want to learn exactly how to tell a musical story, you can in our Jazz Ballad Composition Course. More Jazz Learning Resources Now that you can improvise beginner jazz piano, what's the next step in your piano journey? Well, there is more to learn! For example, there are all kinds of amazing beginner jazz piano techniques that you can use in your improvisation like turns, rolls, and ostinatos, runs, and fills. Where do you learn all this? Well, we've put together everything you need in our step-by-step learning tracks. Just start with the beginner Level 1 Foundations Track where you can master late beginner Jazz Swing, Jazz Ballads, Latin Jazz, Blues, and many other styles. And you can learn everything you need to know about jazz theory and technique in our intermediate Level 2 Foundations Learning Track. If you enjoyed this lesson, I encourage you to sign up for our mailing list by clicking here. You'll get our weekly free Quick Tips sent out to you every week. And if you're serious about your piano journey and ready to make rapid progress, you can dive into our Learning Tracks and Live Learning Tracks and Live Learning Tracks and I'll see you in the next Quick Tip! Your teacher, Jonny May Share This