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George Benson

Player Studies

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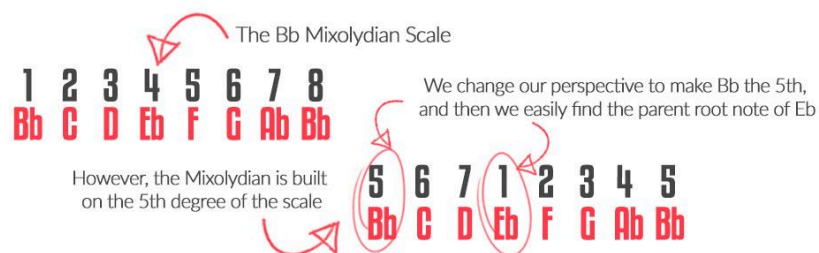
George's Jazz

UNIT 3 • **LESSON 13** << PREVIOUS NEXT >>

Lesson notes Interactive tab

Mixolydian

To understand the theory within this tune we need to first understand what Mixolydian means as this song is based around a Bb Mixolydian key. The Mixolydian mode is the 5th mode of the major scale. It, therefore, makes sense, at this stage, to relate Bb Mixolydian back to its parent major scale. So, the 5th down from Bb is Eb. This is therefore in the key of Eb major. If you are confused about that, hopefully, this diagram will help a little:



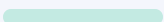
Theory

So, with that sorted we can now understand the theory a little more. In the key of Eb major we would normally harmonise the 7 chords as **Ebmaj7, Fm7, Gm7, Abmaj7, Bb7, Cm7, Dm7b5**. In our song we have the basic chords: **Bb7, Em7b5, Ebmaj7 and Ab7**.

Course navigation

UNIT 1

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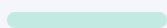
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Baking Buns

UNIT 2

George's Trick

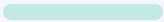
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Bag

UNIT 3






George's Jazz

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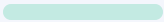
To play jazz at the level Mr Benson does you need to have a firm grasp of theory and chord construction. In this section Dion will be breaking down a typical Benson jazz progression to get you mastering the rhythm side of his playing as well as the lead.

Lessons:

-  "George's Jazz"
-  Theory
-  Bb9 Chord
-  Em7b5 & Ebmaj7
-  Ab13 Chord

UNIT 4

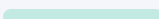
Benson's Blues

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UNIT 5

Getting The Tone

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So, as you can see the Bb and Eb are natural to the key, but the Ab7 and Em7b5 isn't. Bare this in mind as we run through the following videos, where we'll talk in more detail, but essentially the Em7b5 is a passing chord and the Ab7 is made dominant (rather than major 7th) to create tension that resolves more effectively to the Bb7.



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