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# **POST-BOP JAZZ PIANO**

**THE COMPLETE GUIDE WITH CD!**



**BY JOHN VALERIO**

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**BY JOHN VALERIO**

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# INTRODUCTION

## What Is Post Bop Jazz?

Post bop jazz is not as easily defined as bebop or swing. There is no one particular post bop style, and there are no clear boundaries between post bop and pre-post bop jazz. Post bop is generally thought of as the style that followed bebop, but there are several styles that fit that description. Bebop flourished during the 1940s and 1950s and represents the beginning of modern jazz. Cool jazz and hard bop were outgrowths of bebop that flourished during the 1950s. Although they emphasized different aspects of bebop and refined the language in various ways, they are still contained under the bebop umbrella. Essentially, post bop is jazz that evolved after bebop during the 1960s. It may include remnants of bebop or even swing, or it may be far removed from any previous style of jazz.

Most jazz piano styles can be defined by the use of the left hand. Stride- and swing-era pianists preferred close position chords around the middle C area when choosing voicings. They usually alternated or mixed these chords with bass notes. The bebop pianists radically changed the left-hand function along with the right-hand approach. The almost-consistent quarter-note pulse of the left hand was replaced with random-like chordal jabs known as *comping*. The chord voicings were stripped down to two or three notes for the most part and were played lower than the middle-range swing voicings. Some pianists evolved from swing piano on a somewhat separate path from bebop; they used the same middle-register voicings as in swing, but eliminated the bass notes. They comped chords like the bebop players but played voicings like the swing players. In many ways, this path leads more directly to most post bop left-hand playing. Nat Cole, Milt Bunkner, Erroll Garner, Oscar Peterson, George Shearing, Red Garland, and Ahmad Jamal, among others, create a direct link to Bill Evans, who set the stage for modern jazz piano voicings.

## How to Use This Book

The first part of this book describes the language of post bop piano playing. It includes chord voicings, scales, and modes, and their applications to harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic practice. Part 2 offers in-depth analyses of the five major post bop pianists: Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, McCoy Tyner, Chick Corea, and Keith Jarrett. Each chapter closes with an original tune written in the style of the player examined.

The most valuable resources for learning any jazz style are the recordings themselves. The reader should read and practice all of the procedures and techniques described in the first part of the book. One should learn all voicings, scales, etc. in all possible keys. While reading the individual pianists' chapters, play through the examples and listen to some of the artists' actual recordings. Playing through the tunes at the end of these chapters should give the reader a feel for some aspects of each pianist's personal style. After playing and studying the tunes, the reader should refer to the lead sheet versions at the back of the book to freely interpret them as well as play along with the CD.

## About the CD

The accompanying CD features many of the examples in the book, performed either solo or with a full band. The tunes written in the styles of the featured pianists include accompaniment. These tracks can be used to practice comping and soloing in the post bop style. (To play along with the tracks without the piano part, turn down the right stereo channel.)

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# Chapter 1

## LEFT-HAND VOICINGS

**T**he harmonic language of post bop piano is extremely rich and varied. It includes all the chords and voicings that preceded it, plus a seemingly infinite variety of newer harmonies and voicing concepts. Before studying harmonic innovations of the post bop pianists, the reader should be familiar with basic tonal theory and jazz harmonic practice.

Chord progressions form the background for most jazz improvisation. Understanding the relationships among chords is fundamental to voicing chords and improvising melodies. If you know the basic chord structures and relationships, you can comprehend and play music using formations that are more complex. Two basic aspects of harmony should be known before proceeding to complex formations: 1) basic seventh and sixth chords; and 2) basic chord functions within a *tonal* context (within the context of a key).

Once a chord is known or chosen, the pianist must choose an appropriate voicing. When dealing with close position chords, three factors come into play: 1) the particular voicing itself; 2) the registral placement of the voicing; and 3) the voice leading to and from the voicing. All of these components give each chord a particular sound. Tone color is a crucial element when choosing modern chord voicings. Often, voicings are selected for the way they sound more than for the harmonic information they impart. Post bop pianists use a wide range of chord extensions, alterations, and voicings to enrich their palette. To affect this rich palette of tone colors and harmony, pianists began to rely on a new concept known as *rootless voicings*.

### Four-Note Rootless Voicings and Formulas

Rootless chord voicings evolved mostly during the 1950s. Ahmad Jamal, Red Garland, and a few others used them often, but **Bill Evans** was the first to systematize them and put them to consistent use. One can trace the origins of the post bop voicings also to include Nat Cole, Milt Bunkner, Erroll Garner, Oscar Peterson, and George Shearing. Essentially, rootless voicings are chord voicings without the root of the chord. Playing the root, then, is left to the bass player—who may or may not choose to do so. By eliminating the root, the pianist is free to play *chord extensions* beyond the 7th with just the left hand. These extensions typically include the 9th and 13th for dominant chords, and the 9th for most other chords. The standard tones used for basic rootless chord voicings are: 3–5–7–9 for major seventh, minor seventh, and minor/major seventh chords; 3–5–6–9 for major and minor sixth chords; and 3–13–7–9 for dominant seventh chords. (Diminished and half-diminished or  $m7^b5$  chords will be discussed later in this chapter.) When using these voicings, seventh and sixth chords actually become ninth chords, or ninth chords with an added 13th.

Cmaj9	Cm9	C <sup>6</sup> <sub>9</sub>	Cm	Cm(maj9)	C9(13)
Cmaj7	Cm7	C6	Cm6	Cm(maj7)	C7

Note that these are voicings for chords and not chords themselves. It may seem strange to call, for instance, the first chord a Cmaj7 when it is spelled and sounds like an Em7 chord! But keep in mind that a bass player will usually supply (or imply) the root, and the voicing will be heard clearly as a Cmaj7. Try practicing each voicing in the right hand while supplying the root in the left hand, as well as playing each voicing in the left hand alone.

## Inversions

The tones in each of these voicings can be inverted, deriving the following voicings:

Diagram showing six inverted chord voicings in bass clef, each with its root indicated by an eye icon and the label 'root':

- Cmaj7
- Cm7
- C6
- Cm6
- Cm(maj7)
- C7

These voicings can be arranged into II–V–I formulas that progress through smooth voice leading. Below are the two most common formulas for major keys.

### Rootless Voicing Formula 1 (RVF 1): Major Keys

Diagram showing the Rootless Voicing Formula 1 (RVF 1) in bass clef, illustrating a II–V–I progression:

- II: Dm7
- V: G7
- I: Cmaj7
- I: C6

Notice that only one note changes between the II and the V chords, and between the Imaj7 and the I6 chords. Each change is by step. Of course, V7 chords can progress to either Imaj7 or I6 chords, and not necessarily to both as above. This formula works the same in all major keys. A few examples follow.

Diagram showing various examples of the Rootless Voicing Formula 1 (RVF 1) in bass clef, illustrating different chord progressions:

- Gm7 C7
- Fmaj7 F6
- Cm7 F7
- Bbmaj7 Bb6
- Fm7 Bb7
- Ebmaj7 Eb6

### Rootless Voicing Formula 2 (RVF 2): Major Keys

Diagram showing the Rootless Voicing Formula 2 (RVF 2) in bass clef, illustrating a II–V–I progression:

- II: Dm7
- V: G7
- I: Cmaj7
- I: C6

Notice that RVF2 uses the same notes as RVF1—but in a different order. The voice-leading principles are similar. As before, either a major 7th or 6th chord can be used as the I chord. Again, this formula works the same in all major keys. A few examples follow.

Diagram showing various examples of the Rootless Voicing Formula 2 (RVF 2) in bass clef, illustrating different chord progressions:

- Am7 D7
- Gmaj7 G6
- Gm7 C7
- Fmaj7 F6
- Fm7 Bb7
- Ebmaj7 Eb6

Some theorists refer to RVF1 and RVF2 as A and B forms, respectively. Notice that the bottom note of each voicing is the 3rd or 7th of a seventh chord, or the 3rd or 6th of a sixth chord.

## Choosing Formulas

When choosing one form or formula over another, two factors come into play: pitch range and texture.

Rootless voicings should not be played too low, or they can become “muddy”—also, the lowest note might be heard as a root. The lower and upper limits for left-hand rootless voicings are generally the C below

middle C and the B $\flat$  above middle C. Of course, there are exceptions. RVF 2 contains minor 2nds in the II and V chord voicings that create “rubs” and thereby have more tension than the II and V chord voicings in RVF 1. Notice the different effect that each formula has on the same melodic line below.

Range considerations make some rootless positions more practical than others. For the keys of C, D $\flat$ , D, and E $\flat$ , RVF 1 is used primarily. For the keys of G $\flat$ , G, A $\flat$ , and A, RVF 2 is used more often. For the other keys—B $\flat$ , B, E, and F—either formula works well. For variety and special effects, any position can be used in any key.

## Altered Chord Tones

Notes of rootless voicings can be altered without altering the formulas themselves. Dominant chords are the most frequently altered chords. Examples of altered dominant chord voicings follow.

Examples of RVF 1 and RVF 2 using these altered dominants follow.



Two staves of music showing rootless chord voicings in bass clef. The first staff contains: Gm7, C7<sup>b</sup>13, Fmaj7, F6, Gm7, C7<sup>b</sup>13, Fmaj7, F6. The second staff contains: Gm7, C7<sup>#</sup>9, Fmaj7, F6, Gm7, C7<sup>#</sup>13, Fmaj7, F6. Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on a single staff.

## Added Chord Tones

Tones can be added to the basic rootless tones by either adding or substituting notes. The 6th or <sup>#</sup>11th is often added to a major seventh chord by adding it or substituting it for the 5th. Adding a 7th to a major sixth chord is the same as adding a 6th to a seventh chord. A <sup>#</sup>11th can be added to a major sixth chord. Examples for RVF 1 and RVF 2 voicings follow.

Two staves of music showing rootless chord voicings in bass clef. The first staff contains: Cmaj7(6), Cmaj7(6), Cmaj7(<sup>#</sup>11), Cmaj7(<sup>#</sup>11). The second staff contains: C6<sup>#</sup>11, C6<sup>#</sup>11, Cmaj7(6)<sup>#</sup>11, Cmaj7(6)<sup>#</sup>11. Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on a single staff.

11ths and/or 13ths can be added to minor seventh chords in similar fashion.

A single staff of music showing rootless chord voicings in bass clef. It contains: Dm11, Dm11, Dm9(13), Dm9(13), Dm13. Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on a single staff.

Since the 9th and 13th are already part of the rootless dominant seventh chord voicing, the <sup>#</sup>11th can be added.

A single staff of music showing rootless chord voicings in bass clef. It contains: G7<sup>#</sup>11, G7<sup>#</sup>11, G7<sup>#</sup>11<sup>b</sup>9, G9<sup>#</sup>11, G7<sup>b</sup>9<sup>#</sup>11. Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on a single staff.

Examples of RVF 1 and RVF 2 using these added tones follow.

Three staves of music showing various chord voicings in bass clef, 4/4 time. The first staff shows Dm7, G7<sup>b13</sup>, Cmaj7(6), Dm7(11), G9<sup>#11</sup>, Cmaj7(6), Dm7(11), G9<sup>#11</sup>, and Cmaj7(6). The second staff shows Dm7, G7<sup>#11</sup>, Cmaj7, Dm11, G7<sup>#11</sup><sup>b9</sup>, Cmaj7(6), Dm7, G9<sup>#11</sup>, and Cmaj7(6). The third staff shows Dm9(13), G7<sup>#11</sup>, Cmaj7(6), Dm11, G7<sup>#11</sup>, Cmaj7(6)<sup>#11</sup>, Dm11, G7<sup>#11</sup><sup>b9</sup>, and Cmaj9<sup>#11</sup>.

## Suspended Chords

A common chord in post bop is the *dominant seventh suspended fourth* chord, usually notated as G7sus4, etc. There are two common ways of playing a rootless sus chord:

1. play a closed-position voicing in any inversion of the II chord that goes with the V7sus chord, such as Dm7 for a G7sus, or Gm7 for a C7sus, etc. (these chords are often notated as Dm7/G, Gm7/C, etc.)
2. play a rootless voicing in any inversion of the II chord that goes with the V7sus chord. For example, a G7sus rootless voicing would be the same as a Dm7 rootless voicing, and a C7sus rootless voicing would be the same as a Gm7 rootless voicing. (These chords are often notated as Fmaj7/G, B<sup>b</sup>maj7/C, etc.)

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing four measures of rootless suspended fourth chords. The first measure is D7sus4 (Am7/D), the second is B<sup>b</sup>7sus4 (Fm7/B<sup>b</sup>), the third is G7sus4 (Fmaj7/G), and the fourth is C7sus4 (B<sup>b</sup>maj7/C). Each measure has a whole note in the bass line and a triad in the treble line.

Below are examples of dominant sus chords coupled with II chords in a II–V progression.

A musical staff in 4/4 time showing a II–V progression. The first measure is Dm7, the second is G7sus4, the third is Cm7, the fourth is F7sus4, the fifth is Fm7, the sixth is B<sup>b</sup>7sus4, the seventh is Am7, and the eighth is D7sus4. Each measure has a whole note in the bass line and a triad in the treble line.

## Diminished and Half-Diminished Seventh Chords

Diminished chords are usually ambiguous. Each chord traditionally has four possible resolutions. This is because the chord has a symmetrical structure consisting of all minor 3rds. When a diminished seventh chord is inverted, it turns into another diminished seventh chord whose root is a minor 3rd away. Therefore, there are really only three different diminished seventh chords:

1.  $C^{\circ 7} = E^{\flat\circ 7} = G^{\flat\circ 7} = A^{\circ 7}$
2.  $D^{\circ 7} = F^{\circ 7} = A^{\flat\circ 7} = B^{\circ 7}$
3.  $E^{\circ 7} = G^{\circ 7} = B^{\flat\circ 7} = D^{\flat\circ 7}$

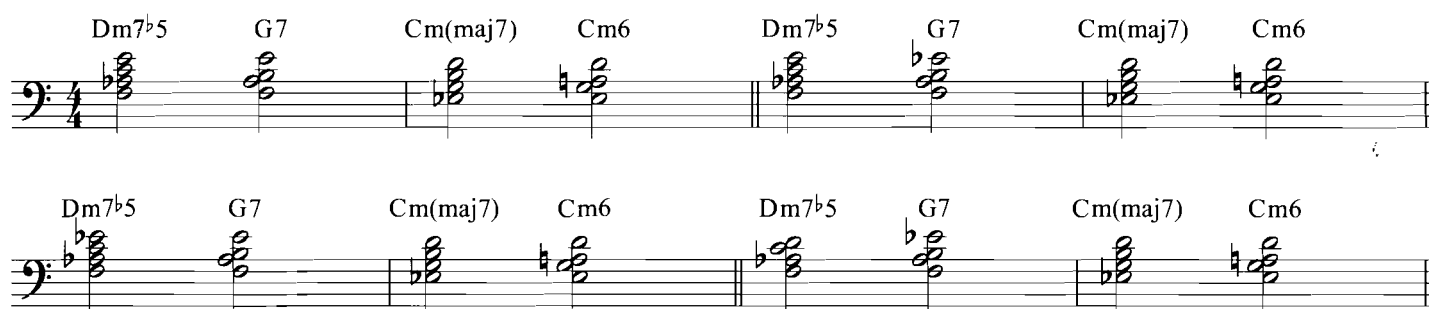
Diminished and half-diminished seventh ( $m7^{\flat 5}$ ) chords are voiced like major and minor seventh chords in the rootless system. The usual tones used are 3–5–7–9. But the 9th can be problematic. Since the  $m7^{\flat 5}$  chord is usually associated with minor keys, the natural 9th can conflict with the third scale degree in the minor key where it usually occurs. Often, the best solution is to avoid the 9th altogether by playing the root instead.



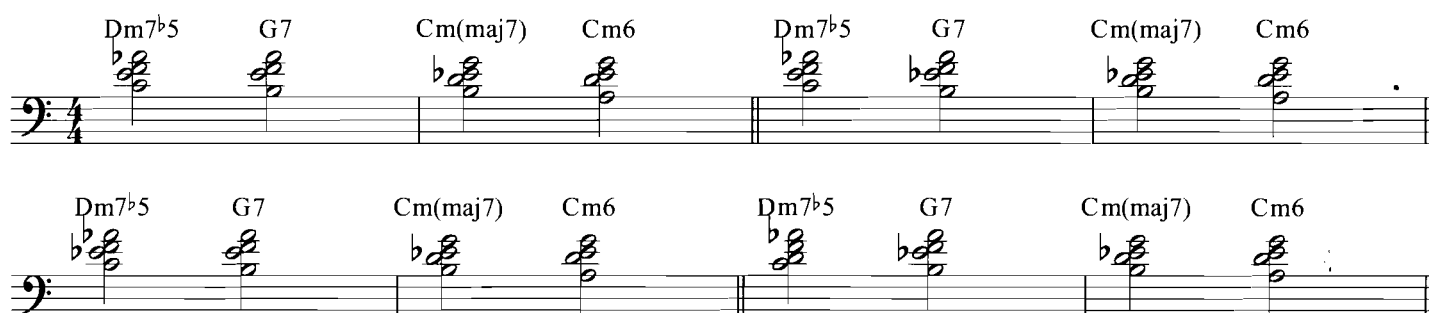
## Rootless Formulas in Minor Keys

The three  $m7^{\flat 5}$  voicings shown above can be used in four typical ways in II–V–I formulas for minor keys. A I chord in minor can either be a  $m(maj7)$ , a  $m6$ , or a  $m7$  chord. In the following examples only  $m(maj7)$  and  $m6$  chords are used. The  $m7$  chord can be substituted for these other minor chords, although technically a minor seventh chord is more properly a II, III, or VI chord in major keys than a I chord in minor keys. The natural 13th on the V chord can cause the same conflict as the natural 9th on the II chord, and both should be used with care. When there is no conflict the natural 9th and 13th are usually preferable. Four typical ways of playing RVFI and RVF2 in minor follow.

### Rootless Voicing Formula 1 (RVF 1): Minor Keys

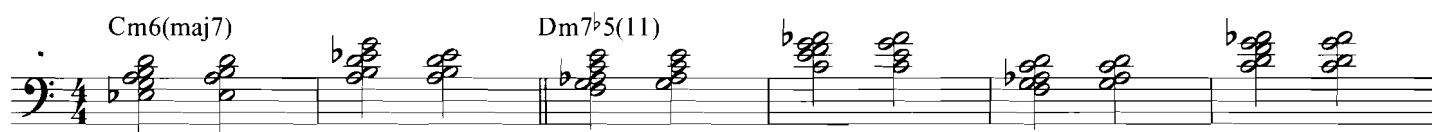


### Rootless Voicing Formula 2 (RVF 2): Minor Keys



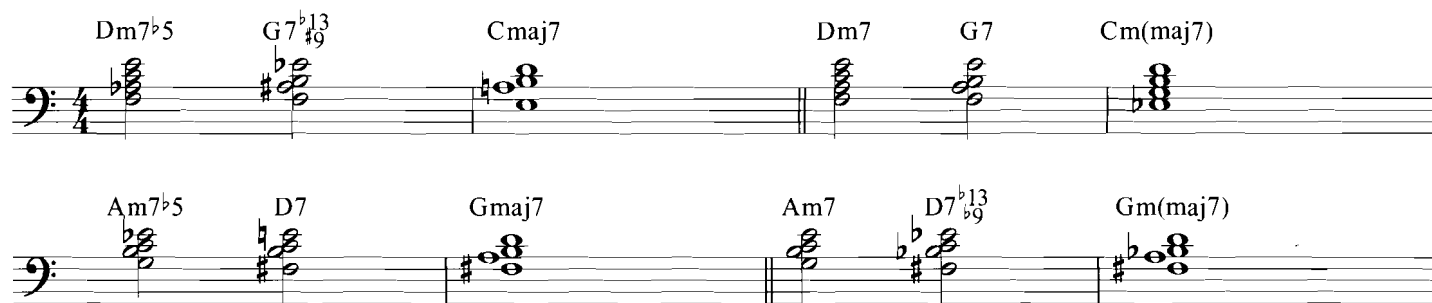
## Added Tones

The 6th and major 7th can be used together in minor I chords, and the 11th is often added to  $m7^b5$  (half-diminished seventh) chords.



## Mixing Major and Minor Modes

Chords from the major and minor formulas often are mixed within a chord progression. Here are a few examples using RVF 1 and RVF2.



## Other Rootless Voicing Formulas

So far, only two of the four possible positions for rootless voicings have been used. Although the other two, RVF3 and RVF4, are used less often, they are useful and offer the pianist more variety in choosing sounds for chord voicings. These are sometimes referred to as the C and D forms.

### Rootless Voicing Formula 3 (RVF 3)

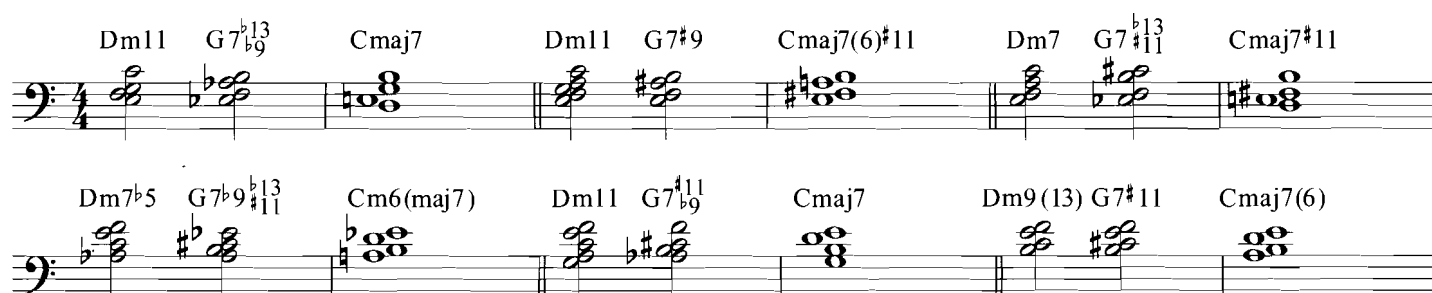


### Rootless Voicing Formula 4 (RVF 4)



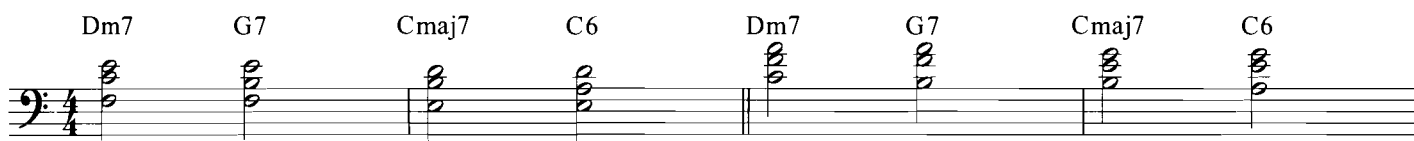
## Altered and Added Chord Tones

All of the alterations and added notes used for RVF 1 and RVF 2 can be used for the new formulas as well. A few samples follow.

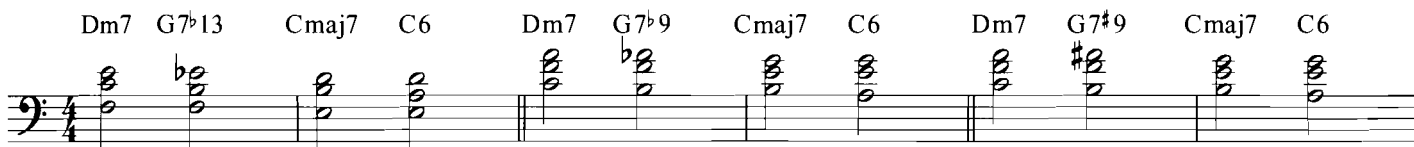


## Three-Note Rootless Voicings and Formulas

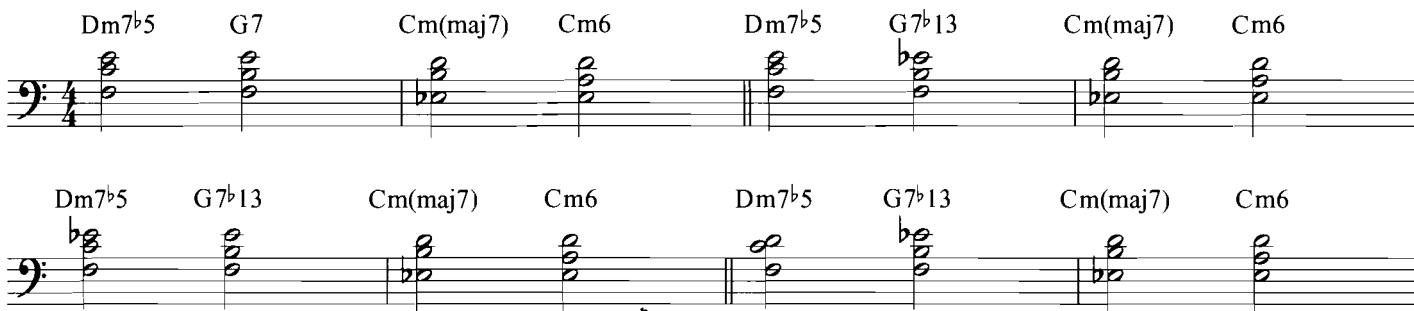
The most common three-note rootless voicings are derived from the four-note formulas. Here are three-note versions of RVF 1 and RVF 2.



Dominant chords can be altered as in four-note voicings.



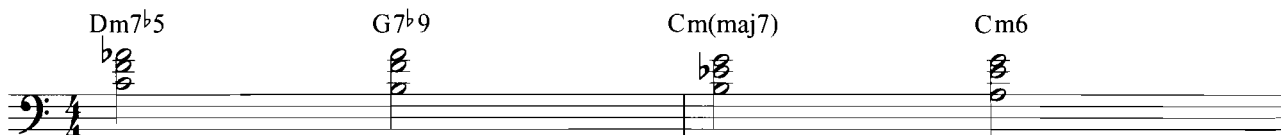
Three-note minor-key versions of RVF1 follow. The same concerns for the four-note versions apply here as well.



The flat 5th is an essential note in defining the m7b5 chord, so the voicings used above are more ambiguous than their minor seventh counterparts (because the b5th is missing). Here are alternate versions of the three-note m7b5 voicings that use the b5th instead of the 7th, coupled with dominant chord voicings only.

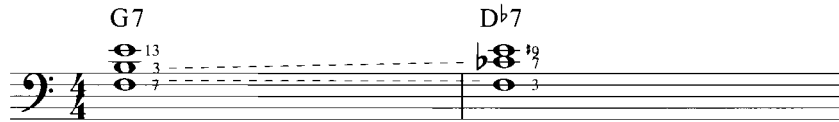


Three-note minor versions of RVF2 are simpler, because the 9th of the II chord (m7b5) is not part of the voicing. That leaves only one possibility.



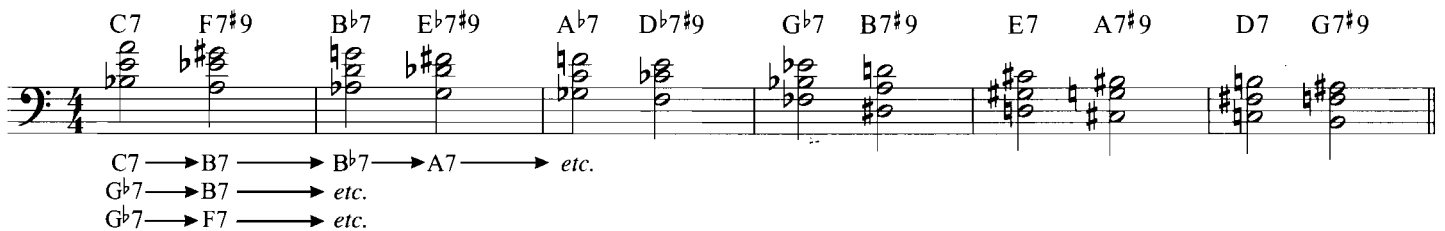
## Dominant Seventh Voicings and Tritone Substitutions

*Tritone substitution* relates to the interchangeability of dominant seventh chords whose roots are a tritone apart. A D<sup>b</sup>7 can substitute for a G7; an E7 can substitute for a B<sup>b</sup>7; etc. The 3rd and 7th of one chord invert to the 7th and 3rd of the other chord. The 3rd and 7th of any dominant seventh chord form the interval of a tritone. The B–F tritone of a G7 chord, for example, inverts to the C<sup>b</sup>–F of a D<sup>b</sup>7 chord.



This makes for a lot of flexibility in dealing with scales, melodies, and bass lines. The bass player may be thinking G7, the pianist may be thinking D<sup>b</sup>7#9, while the saxophone player can think of either one, or some scale that relates to both.

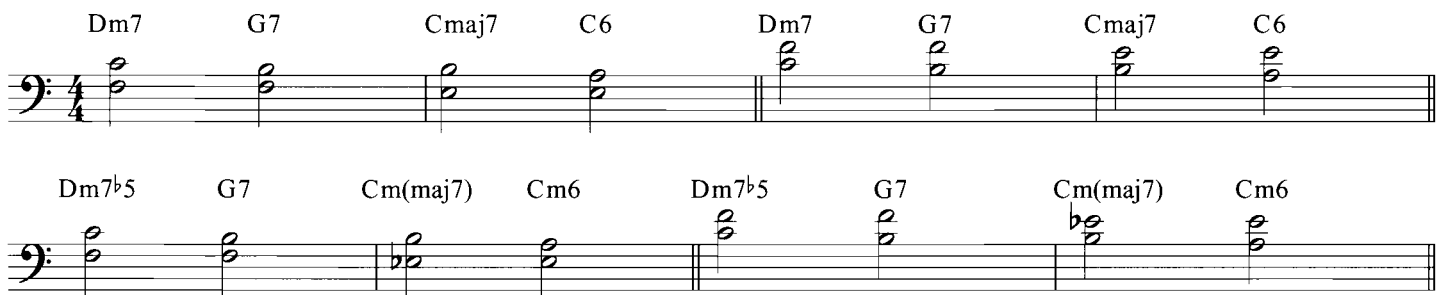
Dominant chords are often cycled by maintaining a consistent voicing. The roots become ambiguous without bass notes. There can be several interpretations of these voicings.



## Two-Note Rootless Voicings

Rootless voicings can be reduced to just two notes. Bill Evans and others used two-note voicings for thinner textures and guide-tone harmonizations. The rule is simple: play only the 3rd and 7th (or 6th) of a chord.

Formulas based on RVF 1 and RVF 2 are shown here.



Two-note voicings are often used for dominant seventh cycles. Notice that you can adjust each tritone voicing enharmonically to form the tritone of the dominant seventh chord that lies a tritone away.



## Cluster Fragments

*Cluster fragments* are usually two- or three-note voicings that do not contain all essential chord tones, namely 3rds and 7ths. They usually contain a 2nd (most often a minor 2nd) between the two lowest notes. Bill Evans and others have often played fragments in place of the more standard rootless voicings. Fragments often contain the root, but lack either the 3rd or 7th. Below are typical fragments used for some basic chord qualities for the root C.

Cmaj7      Cmaj7      Cm(maj7)      Cm(maj7)      Cm7      C7  
 C7<sup>b</sup>9      Cm7<sup>b</sup>5      Cm7<sup>b</sup>5      C°7      C°7

One fragment voicing can be used for several different chords. This one consists of a minor 2nd and major 3rd.

Cmaj7      Am(maj7)      Am7      D7      F<sup>#</sup>m7<sup>b</sup>5

This fragment consists of a minor 2nd and minor 3rd.

Cm(maj7)      D7<sup>b</sup>9      Am7<sup>b</sup>5      A°7      G<sup>b</sup>°7

Clusters made entirely of 2nds are also possible.

Cmaj9      D7      F<sup>#</sup>11      Am7      D7      Fmaj7<sup>#</sup>11      Dm7      Am7      G      Cmaj7      Dm6      Em7

## Fragments in Formula Voicings

Cluster fragments can be used in place of four- or three-note voicings in otherwise rootless voicing formulas. A few examples follow.

Am7      D7      G      Am7      D7      G      Am11      D7<sup>b</sup>9      G6  
 Am7<sup>b</sup>5      D9<sup>b</sup>13      Gm      Am7<sup>b</sup>5      D7<sup>#</sup>9      Gm(maj7)      Am7<sup>b</sup>5      D7<sup>b</sup>13      Gm6

## Quartal Voicings

*Quartal voicings* are those built entirely on 4ths. For the left hand, that usually involves three notes. During the 1960s, quartal voicings became very popular with many post bop pianists, including McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea. Bill Evans was the first pianist to work out quartal voicings for two hands. His contribution to the Miles Davis album *Kind of Blue* sparked the interest in voicing chords primarily in 4ths instead of 3rds. Open 4ths have an open sound that is ambiguous out of the context of a chord progression, and quartal voicings tend to blur tonal implication and direction. This suited the non-traditional tonal contexts of much 1960s jazz.

Below are some common left-hand quartal voicings. All of them contain at least two notes from the basic seventh chord that they represent.

The image displays five musical staves, each representing a different quartal voicing in the left hand. Each staff is in 4/4 time and contains five measures of music. The notes are grouped in pairs of two, representing quartal voicings. The chords and their corresponding voicings are:

- Dm7:** The first staff shows five measures of quartal voicings for Dm7, starting with a low D and moving up stepwise.
- G7sus4:** The second staff shows five measures of quartal voicings for G7sus4, starting with a low G and moving up stepwise.
- D7sus4:** The third staff shows five measures of quartal voicings for D7sus4, starting with a low D and moving up stepwise.
- C:** The fourth staff shows five measures of quartal voicings for C, starting with a low C and moving up stepwise.
- Dm7b5/Cm:** The fifth staff shows five measures of quartal voicings for Dm7b5/Cm, starting with a low D and moving up stepwise.

Quartal voicings are often used together to create consistent textures. Here are some ways they can be used in II–V–I progressions.

The image displays two musical staves, each representing a II–V–I progression in the left hand. Each staff is in 4/4 time and contains six measures of music. The notes are grouped in pairs of two, representing quartal voicings. The chords and their corresponding voicings are:

- Staff 1:** Shows a II–V–I progression for Dm7, G7, and C. The first measure is Dm7, the second is G7, and the third is C. This pattern is repeated four times across the staff.
- Staff 2:** Shows a II–V–I progression for Dm7, G7, and C. The first measure is Dm7, the second is G7, and the third is C. This pattern is repeated four times across the staff.



## Combined Voicings

The voicings and voicing formulas described so far refer to general principles and formulaic procedures used by post bop pianists. In actual practice, however, voicings and voicing formulas are often mixed; no one particular texture or voice-leading formula holds sway. Five-, four-, three-, and two-note voicings can be mixed within a harmonic phrase, and smooth voice leading can be interrupted to create tension, textural and timbral variety, and melodic interest within the chord progression.

### *Inverted Major Seventh Chords*

Inverted major seventh chords are often used within a mostly rootless voicing context. The rub of the major 7th against the root fits in well within the sonic realm of rootless voicings. The minor 2nd produced in these inversions gives a sound akin to some rootless positions of other chord qualities. Thus, although not technically a rootless voicing, the inverted major seventh chord can be seen as a part of an otherwise rootless system. Here are some samples of combined rootless voicings and inverted major seventh chords in typical progressions.

Two staves of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the following chords: Am7, D7#9, Gmaj7, Gm7, C7, Fmaj7, Fm7, Bb9#11, and Ebmaj7. The second staff contains: Bbm7, Eb7, Abmaj7, Bbm7, Eb7, Abmaj7, Dm7b5, G7b9, and Cm(maj7). Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on the staff.

Other voicings with roots can be mixed with rootless voicings, and any combination of root and rootless voicings can be used. Examples in the styles of Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, and Keith Jarrett follow.

Four staves of musical notation in bass clef, 4/4 time. The first staff contains: Gm7, C7, Gm7, C7, Gm7, C7, Gm7, C7, Bm7b5, E7, Am7, and D7. The second staff contains: Cm7, F7, Bbm, Am7, D7, Gm, D7, Bm7b5, E7, and Am. The third staff contains: Bb7, Eb7, D7, G7, Fm7, Bb7, Eb6, and Gm7, C7. The fourth staff contains: Fm7, Bb7, Eb6, Em7b5, A7, Gm7, C7, Gm7, C7, Gm7, C7, and F. Each chord is represented by a cluster of notes on the staff.

## Left-Hand Comping

*Comping* refers to the chordal accompaniment of a melody. The pianist typically comps with two hands while other instruments play melodies or solos. When the pianist plays a melody or solo, he or she will usually play it in the right hand while comping with the left hand.

There are essentially two different ways to approach left-hand comping; the first is with a consistent rhythm, and the second is with a random-like rhythm. A consistent rhythm might be a groove-like formula as shown below.



Ahmad Jamal and Red Garland made much use of the pattern shown below. The chords anticipate beats 1 and 3. An example in Jamal's style follows.



The reverse of the rhythm shown above is used less often but is also common. Here, the chords anticipate beats 2 and 4. An example in the style of Bill Evans follows.



Playing a regular pattern in the left hand relates more directly to the pulse than to the right-hand rhythms. It sets up a rhythmic anticipation that establishes a groove and creates rhythmic reference points for the right-hand melodies.

Random-like comping is more typical than consistent comping. Here the focus is more on the right-hand rhythms. The comping rhythms relate more to the right-hand rhythms than to the pulse. Durations of chords are an important part of comping. Below is a left-hand example in the style of Bill Evans. Notice the rhythmic and durational variety.



## Chapter 2

## Root-Position Open Voicings

Open voicings for two hands can be categorized according to their interval structure. Below are examples for a Cmaj7 and a C6 chord. Note that a major sixth chord can substitute for a major seventh chord without affecting the voicing category or function. There are five basic types considered here, starting with A-type: 1-7-3-5; B-type: 1-3 (10)-7-9; C-type: 1-3 (10)-5-7; D-type: 1-5-3-7; and E-type: 1-5-7-3. These voicings apply to all other chord qualities.

Type: A Cmaj7 B C D E A C6 B C D E

The musical score is written in 4/4 time. The treble staff uses a G-clef and the bass staff uses an F-clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The chords and their fingerings are as follows:

- A Cmaj7:** Treble: G4 (5), A4 (3); Bass: C3 (7), D3 (1).
- B:** Treble: B4 (9), A4 (9); Bass: B2 (3), A2 (10).
- C:** Treble: C5 (7), B4 (7); Bass: C3 (3), B2 (10).
- D:** Treble: D5 (7), C5 (3); Bass: D3 (5), C3 (1).
- E:** Treble: E5 (3), D5 (7); Bass: E3 (5), D3 (1).
- A C6:** Treble: G4 (5), A4 (3); Bass: C3 (6), D3 (1).
- B:** Treble: B4 (9), A4 (6); Bass: B2 (3), A2 (10).
- C:** Treble: C5 (5), B4 (5); Bass: C3 (3), B2 (10).
- D:** Treble: D5 (6), C5 (3); Bass: D3 (5), C3 (1).
- E:** Treble: E5 (3), D5 (6); Bass: E3 (5), D3 (1).

## Open Voicing Formulas

As with rootless voicings, these voicings often combine into convenient voicing formulas. Here are some typical II–V–I formulas in major keys. Types A and B alternate easily when the root of each successive chord moves down by a 5th. Note that a 1–3 left-hand voicing can replace the 1–10 voicing in any of these examples.

The image displays two systems of musical notation for piano accompaniment, likely for a song. Each system consists of a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a series of chords and bass notes.

**System 1:**

- Measures 1-4:** Chords Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6. Bass notes: A, B, A, B.
- Measures 5-8:** Chords Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6. Bass notes: A, B, A, B.
- Measures 9-12:** Chords Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6. Bass notes: C, A, B.

**System 2:**

- Measures 1-4:** Chords Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6. Bass notes: D, E, D, E.
- Measures 5-8:** Chords Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6. Bass notes: D, E, D, E.

The same voicing formulas apply to minor keys.

Two systems of piano chord voicings for minor keys. The first system shows Dm7<sup>b5</sup>, G7, Cm(maj7), and Cm6 in both treble and bass staves. The second system repeats the same sequence.

## Extended and Altered Chords

These voicings can be adapted to include extended and altered chord tones by adjusting one note. Here are some common examples.

Three systems of piano chord voicings for extended and altered chords. The first system shows Cm11, C7<sup>#5</sup>, C13, Cmaj7(6), Cmaj7<sup>#11</sup>, Cmaj7(6), and Cm6(maj7). The second system shows Cm6(maj7), C7<sup>b9</sup>, C7<sup>#9</sup>, C7<sup>#11</sup>, C7<sup>b9</sup><sup>#5</sup>, C13, and Cmaj7(6). The third system shows Cmaj7<sup>#11</sup>, C6(<sup>#11</sup>), Cm6(maj7), Cm11, C7<sup>#11</sup>, C7<sup>#5</sup>, and C13.

Notes can be added to the basic open voicings to create extended five- or six-note chords. Some minor seventh chord voicings follow.

A system of piano chord voicings for Cm7, showing various extended and altered versions in both treble and bass staves.

A musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for a piano (p) and features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment. The score is presented in a standard musical notation format with a grand staff.

[illegible]

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a piano introduction in G major, 3/4 time. The score is written for piano (p) and includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is in the right hand, and the accompaniment is in the left hand. The score consists of six measures, with the first measure being a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5) and the subsequent measures being half notes and whole notes. The final measure is a whole note chord (G4, B4, D5).

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a treble and bass staff. The treble staff contains a melody with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The melody consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. The accompaniment is primarily composed of chords and single notes in the lower register.

Here are some extended dominant seventh chord voicings.

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It features a piano introduction in 3/4 time, marked 'Andante'. The score is written for piano (p) and includes a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The score consists of 8 measures. The first measure has a piano introduction (p) and a key signature change to one flat. The second measure has a key signature change to one flat. The third measure has a key signature change to one flat. The fourth measure has a key signature change to one flat. The fifth measure has a key signature change to one flat. The sixth measure has a key signature change to one flat. The seventh measure has a key signature change to one flat. The eighth measure has a key signature change to one flat. The score ends with a double bar line.

A musical score for the song 'The Rose Tree'. It consists of two staves, a treble staff and a bass staff, joined by a brace on the left. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The melody starts on a whole note G4, followed by a half note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note A4. The accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern in the left hand, with a G4 in the first measure, an A4 in the second, and a B4 in the third, followed by a whole note G4 in the fourth measure. The piece ends with a double bar line.

Some major seventh and sixth chord voicings follow.

C

All other chord qualities can be voiced in similar ways. Doubling, displaced notes, and variations in spacing add variety and timbral nuances to all of these voicings.

## Polychords / Upper Structures

A chord voicing can take on the appearance of one chord superimposed on another chord. The term *polychord* usually refers to a voicing of a chord rather than two simultaneous chords. The same technique is often referred to as *upper structure* (the upper structure being the upper chord). The upper chord is usually a triad, but a seventh chord is possible. Polychords are usually used for dominant chords, but can be used for other chord qualities. The most common dominant polychords are shown here.

Notice the tensions that each polychord produces and the different effects of each inversion of the upper structure. Also, the C major triad is included here as an upper structure. Although a C major triad is implicit in a C7 chord, voicing it as an upper structure yields some interesting sounds that reinforce the natural overtones of the root.

Four-note upper structure triads that span an octave played over rootless dominant voicings are used often in comping. Herbie Hancock made this approach popular during the 1960s (See Chapter 6). A few examples follow.

C7      B $\flat$ 7      C7      G7      D7      E $\flat$ 7

Examples of polychord possibilities and four-note triad upper structure for other chord qualities follow.

$\frac{Dm}{Cm7} = Cm13$      $\frac{E\flat}{Cm7} = Cm7$      $\frac{F}{Cm7} = Cm13$      $\frac{Gm}{Cm7} = Cm9$      $\frac{B\flat}{Cm7} = Cm11$      $\frac{Cm}{Cm7} = Cm7$

Dm7      Cm7      Gm7      Am7      Am7      Fm7

$\frac{D}{Cmaj7} = Cmaj9\sharp11$      $\frac{Em}{Cmaj7} = Cmaj7$      $\frac{G}{Cmaj7} = Cmaj9$      $\frac{Bm}{Cmaj7} = Cmaj9\sharp11$      $\frac{C}{Cmaj7} = Cmaj7$

Cmaj7      Cmaj7      B $\flat$ maj7      E $\flat$ maj7      Cmaj7      Gmaj7

$\frac{D}{C7\flat5} = Cm9\flat5$      $\frac{E\flat m}{C7\flat5} = Em7\flat9$      $\frac{Fm}{C7\flat5} = Cm7\flat5(\flat13)$      $\frac{G\flat}{C7\flat5} = Cm7\flat9$      $\frac{A\flat}{C7\flat5} = Cm7\flat5(\flat13)$      $\frac{B\flat}{C7\flat5} = Cm9\flat5(11)$

$\text{Cm}7^b5$        $\text{Dm}7^b5$        $\text{Dm}7^b5$        $\text{Fm}7^b5$        $\text{Cm}7^b5$        $\text{Em}7^b5$

$\frac{\text{Dm}}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}(\text{maj}9)11$        $\frac{\text{D}}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)(\#11)$        $\frac{\text{E}^b}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}7(\text{maj}7)$

$\frac{\text{F}}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}6(\text{maj}7)11$        $\frac{\text{G}}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}(\text{maj}9)$        $\frac{\text{Cm}}{\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)} \} = \text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)$

$\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)$        $\text{Am}(\text{maj}7)$        $\text{Gm}(\text{maj}7)$        $\text{Cm}(\text{maj}7)$        $\text{Dm}(\text{maj}7)$        $\text{Gm}(\text{maj}7)$

$\frac{\text{D}}{\text{C}^\circ7} \} = \text{C}^\circ7(9)$        $\frac{\text{F}}{\text{C}^\circ7} \} = \text{C}^\circ7(11)$        $\frac{\text{A}^b}{\text{C}^\circ7} \} = \text{C}^\circ7(\flat13)$        $\frac{\text{B}}{\text{C}^\circ7} \} = \text{C}^\circ7(\text{maj}7)$

$\text{C}^\circ7$        $\text{D}^\circ7$        $\text{G}^\circ7$        $\text{G}^\circ7$        $\text{F}^\circ7$        $\text{F}^\sharp7$



## Upper Structure Arpeggios

Upper structure arpeggios are commonly played over a basic chord voicing. They can be used as decorative fills or part of an improvised line.

## Open Rootless Voicings

Rootless voicings can be played with two hands, and they can be extracted from the left-hand voicings shown in Chapter 1. They are commonly used for comping. Each of the rootless voicing formulas can generate an open voicing formula for two hands.

RVF 1

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

RVF 2

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

RVF 3

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

RVF 4

Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6 Dm7 G7 Cmaj7 C6

## Quartal Voicings

During the early 1960s, voicings based on 4ths rather than 3rds became popular with certain pianists, most notably McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea. Although open 4ths sometimes occur in the rootless voicings described thus far, some pianists derived other quartal voicings and used them almost exclusively at times. Quartal voicings for two hands can be derived from the left-hand voicings described in Chapter 1. Common four-note voicings for each chord quality are listed here.

Five-note quartal voicings are also possible. Here are some common voicings.

Two musical staves illustrating five-note quartal voicings. The first staff shows voicings for Dm7, G7sus4, G7, G7sus4, and G7. The second staff shows voicings for C, Cm, and Dm7<sup>b</sup>5. Each chord is represented by two measures of music, with notes grouped in pairs to show the quartal structure.

Another 4th can be added to the above voicings to create six-note voicings.

## Tertial-Quartal Hybrid Voicings

### “So What” Voicings

Bill Evans actually used a quartal-tertil hybrid voicing (constructed from mostly 4ths) on the Miles Davis tune “So What” (from the 1959 album *Kind of Blue*). These particular voicings have been referred to as “So What” voicings ever since.

Musical staff showing a tertial-quartal hybrid voicing. The right hand has a major third (M3rd) and a fourth (4th). The left hand has a fourth (4th) and a fifth (4th).

This voicing works for a Dm7, a B<sup>b</sup> maj7, or an E<sup>b</sup> maj7<sup>#</sup>11 chord.

### Combined Quartal and Rootless Voicings

Post bop pianists often combine rootless left-hand voicings with quartal right-hand voicings. These hybrid voicings are often used for comping. Some examples for II–V–I formulas follow.

Two musical staves illustrating combined quartal and rootless voicings for Dm7, G7, and Cmaj7 chords. Each chord is represented by two measures of music in 4/4 time, with notes grouped in pairs to show the quartal structure.

## Combined Tertian and Quartal Voicings

Other tertial/quartal voicings are widely used for comping. Here are some possibilities.

Cm7

Eight measures of piano accompaniment for Cm7. The right hand uses tertial voicings (triads and dyads) and the left hand uses quartal voicings (four-note chords). The notes are: Measure 1: C4, Bb3, Ab3, Gb3; Measure 2: Bb3, Ab3, Gb3, F3; Measure 3: Ab3, Gb3, F3, Eb3; Measure 4: Gb3, F3, Eb3, Db3; Measure 5: F3, Eb3, Db3, Cb3; Measure 6: Eb3, Db3, Cb3, Bb2; Measure 7: Db3, Cb3, Bb2, Ab2; Measure 8: Cb3, Bb2, Ab2, Gb2.

C7

Twelve measures of piano accompaniment for C7. The right hand uses tertial voicings and the left hand uses quartal voicings. The notes are: Measure 1: C4, Bb3, Ab3, Gb3; Measure 2: Bb3, Ab3, Gb3, F3; Measure 3: Ab3, Gb3, F3, Eb3; Measure 4: Gb3, F3, Eb3, Db3; Measure 5: F3, Eb3, Db3, Cb3; Measure 6: Eb3, Db3, Cb3, Bb2; Measure 7: Db3, Cb3, Bb2, Ab2; Measure 8: Cb3, Bb2, Ab2, Gb2; Measure 9: Gb2, F2, Eb2, Db2; Measure 10: F2, Eb2, Db2, Cb2; Measure 11: Eb2, Db2, Cb2, Bb1; Measure 12: Db2, Cb2, Bb1, Ab1.

C

Twelve measures of piano accompaniment for C. The right hand uses tertial voicings and the left hand uses quartal voicings. The notes are: Measure 1: C4, Bb3, Ab3, Gb3; Measure 2: Bb3, Ab3, Gb3, F3; Measure 3: Ab3, Gb3, F3, Eb3; Measure 4: Gb3, F3, Eb3, Db3; Measure 5: F3, Eb3, Db3, Cb3; Measure 6: Eb3, Db3, Cb3, Bb2; Measure 7: Db3, Cb3, Bb2, Ab2; Measure 8: Cb3, Bb2, Ab2, Gb2; Measure 9: Gb2, F2, Eb2, Db2; Measure 10: F2, Eb2, Db2, Cb2; Measure 11: Eb2, Db2, Cb2, Bb1; Measure 12: Db2, Cb2, Bb1, Ab1.

Cm

Twelve measures of piano accompaniment for Cm. The right hand uses tertial voicings and the left hand uses quartal voicings. The notes are: Measure 1: C4, Bb3, Ab3, Gb3; Measure 2: Bb3, Ab3, Gb3, F3; Measure 3: Ab3, Gb3, F3, Eb3; Measure 4: Gb3, F3, Eb3, Db3; Measure 5: F3, Eb3, Db3, Cb3; Measure 6: Eb3, Db3, Cb3, Bb2; Measure 7: Db3, Cb3, Bb2, Ab2; Measure 8: Cb3, Bb2, Ab2, Gb2; Measure 9: Gb2, F2, Eb2, Db2; Measure 10: F2, Eb2, Db2, Cb2; Measure 11: Eb2, Db2, Cb2, Bb1; Measure 12: Db2, Cb2, Bb1, Ab1.

Cm7b5

Eight measures of piano accompaniment for Cm7b5. The right hand uses tertial voicings and the left hand uses quartal voicings. The notes are: Measure 1: C4, Bb3, Ab3, Gb3; Measure 2: Bb3, Ab3, Gb3, F3; Measure 3: Ab3, Gb3, F3, Eb3; Measure 4: Gb3, F3, Eb3, Db3; Measure 5: F3, Eb3, Db3, Cb3; Measure 6: Eb3, Db3, Cb3, Bb2; Measure 7: Db3, Cb3, Bb2, Ab2; Measure 8: Cb3, Bb2, Ab2, Gb2.

## Locked Hands / Block Chords

During the 1940s and 50s several pianists developed a way of playing chord melodies with both hands, known as *locked hands* and/or *block chords*. Two characteristics of this approach influenced the post bop players: 1) the separation of the left hand from the pulse; and 2) the use of the left-hand voicing to “color” the melody notes.

### Locked Hands

In its basic form, the locked-hands technique requires the right hand to play a closed-position voicing below the melody note, while the left hand doubles the melody note an octave lower. The pianist must decide how to harmonize each melody note; several options are available. Each melody note can be harmonized with: 1) notes from the prevailing harmony; 2) notes from the prevailing harmony on most chord tones, and passing chords inserted on non-chord tones; or 3) notes from the prevailing harmony on chord tones, and diminished seventh chords on non-chord tones. Each is demonstrated below.

1

C F7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C

Example 1 shows a sequence of chords in 4/4 time: C, F7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7, and C. The right hand plays a closed-position voicing below the melody note, and the left hand doubles the melody note an octave lower. The voicings are: C (C4, E4, G4), F7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), Em7 (Bb3, D4, F4, G4), A7 (C#3, E4, G4, Bb4), Dm7 (F3, Ab3, Bb3, D4), G7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), and C (C4, E4, G4).

2

C F7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C

Example 2 shows a sequence of chords in 4/4 time: C, F7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7, and C. The right hand plays a closed-position voicing below the melody note, and the left hand doubles the melody note an octave lower. The voicings are: C (C4, E4, G4), F7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), Em7 (Bb3, D4, F4, G4), A7 (C#3, E4, G4, Bb4), Dm7 (F3, Ab3, Bb3, D4), G7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), and C (C4, E4, G4).

3

C F7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C

Example 3 shows a sequence of chords in 4/4 time: C, F7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7, and C. The right hand plays a closed-position voicing below the melody note, and the left hand doubles the melody note an octave lower. The voicings are: C (C4, E4, G4), F7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), Em7 (Bb3, D4, F4, G4), A7 (C#3, E4, G4, Bb4), Dm7 (F3, Ab3, Bb3, D4), G7 (Bb3, D4, F4, Ab4), and C (C4, E4, G4).

## Drop Two

A common variation on this technique is known as the *drop two*. The voicing is derived by dropping the second highest voice down one octave. This is accomplished in one of two ways: 1) keeping the right-hand voicing as is, and doubling the second highest voice an octave lower with the left hand, thereby producing a five-note voicing; or 2) dropping that note from the right hand, and playing the note one octave lower in the left hand.

1

C F7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C

2

C F7 Em7 A7 Dm7 G7 C

## Block Chords

Pianists often play block chords in ways other than with “locked hands.” Red Garland often played in a full two-handed style that featured middle-register chords in the left hand, and “ringing” octaves and 5ths in the upper register with the right hand.



TRACK 1

Gm7 C7

Am7 Abm7 Gm7 C7b9 Fmaj7

# SCALES AND TONALITY

**S**cale theories are somewhat new to jazz. *Scale* in this context refers to a collection of notes that serves as source material for a relationship among certain notes, rather than a stepwise melodic motion. Although the original bebop players were the first in jazz to base their improvised melodies more on scales than chords, they did not consciously do so.

Much has been written on the use of scales in modern jazz theory. This chapter will present the most important scales and their uses. Scales are used as source material for improvisation. Post bop players used many, more “exotic,” scales along with traditional diatonic scales. In modern jazz theory, scales are derived from chords. A chord may suggest one or several scales to improvise from. Certain scales are considered to better express the quality of the chord, while others create more tension in relation to the chord.

## Traditional Diatonic Scales

### Major Scales and Modes

Traditional diatonic scales include the major scale, its derivative modes, and the various forms of the minor scale. The derivative modes of the major scale are obtained by starting a new scale with a new tonic on each successive scale degree; thus the D Dorian mode contains the same notes as a C major scale but starts on D. These modes are often thought of as corresponding to each diatonic seventh chord of the major scale. While some theorists think of the notes of a C major scale when played over a Dm7 chord as a D Dorian mode, implying D as a temporary tonic, the reality is that in this situation, C is still the tonic, and thus a C major scale is still operating. However, when scales that are foreign to the prevailing chord are used, the separate scale-per-chord approach is more useful.

The image displays seven diatonic modes and their corresponding chords, arranged in two rows of musical notation. Each mode is shown in the treble clef, and its corresponding chord is shown in the bass clef.

- Row 1:**
  - Cmaj7:** C Ionian/major scale (C-D-E-F-G-A-B) and C major 7th chord (C-E-G-B).
  - Dm7:** D Dorian mode (D-E-F-G-A-B-C) and D minor 7th chord (D-F-A-C).
  - Em7:** E Phrygian mode (E-F-G-A-B-C-D) and E minor 7th chord (E-G-B-D).
  - Fmaj7:** F Lydian mode (F-G-A-B-C-D-E) and F major 7th chord (F-A-C-E).
- Row 2:**
  - G7:** G Mixolydian mode (G-A-B-C-D-E-F) and G dominant 7th chord (G-B-D-F).
  - Am7:** A Aeolian/natural minor mode (A-B-C-D-E-F-G) and A minor 7th chord (A-C-E-G).
  - Bm7b5:** B Locrian mode (B-C-D-E-F-G-A) and B minor 7th flat 5th chord (B-D-F-A).

### Minor Scales

Minor keys do not fit so neatly into scale theories. One reason is that there are essentially three different minor scales in traditional tonal music—natural (pure) minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor. A fourth minor scale, known as *jazz minor*, is sometimes referred to—it is the same as the ascending melodic minor scale without changing for a descending version. Since the ascending melodic minor scale has a special significance in jazz theory, it will be referred to simply as the melodic minor scale.

C natural (pure) minor                      C harmonic minor

C melodic minor

C jazz minor

Since there are several scales used in minor keys, deriving diatonic modes or scales for each scale degree can be problematic. Scale choice depends on chord choices, which often depend on melodic considerations. A simple II–V–I progression in minor can imply the following scale choices:

Dm7<sup>b</sup>5                      Dm7<sup>b</sup>5                      G7                      G7

C natural minor/Aeolian                      C harmonic minor                      C natural minor/Aeolian                      C harmonic minor

G7                      Cm(maj7)                      Cm6                      Cm6

C melodic minor                      C harmonic minor                      C melodic minor                      C Dorian

## Modes of the Melodic Minor Scale

Scales can be derived from the melodic minor scale in the same way that the traditional modes can be derived from the major scale. None of them, however, function as independent tonalities in the way that the traditional modes do. For instance, you can superimpose a Dorian mode on a II chord in major, but a Dorian mode also can exist as its own tonality. Music can be in Dorian as much as it can be in major. The so-called “modes” of the melodic minor scale are used over certain chords to add colors that are not available from traditional scales, but do not usually constitute tonalities in their own right. The following modes (scales) are derived from a C melodic minor scale.

melodic minor                      Dorian <sup>b</sup>2                      Lydian augmented

Lydian dominant                      Mixolydian <sup>b</sup>6                      Locrian <sup>#</sup>2                      Altered (super Locrian)

The *Lydian dominant* and *Altered* scales are used extensively in post bop. There are many progressions in jazz that use a dominant seventh chord as a IV chord (F7 in the key of C major). The Lydian dominant scale works well in this situation, as the lowered 7th of the IV chord is accommodated by the lowered 7th degree of the F Lydian mode that is also the minor 3rd degree of the C minor scale. The scale also works well with any dominant #11 chord.

The *Altered scale* works with any altered dominant chord. It includes  $\flat 9$ ,  $\sharp 9$ ,  $\flat 5$  or  $\sharp 11$ , and  $\sharp 5$  (or  $\flat 13$ ). It's easy to think of an altered scale as containing the same notes as the melodic minor scale starting a half-step higher than the root of the chord. For instance: a C altered scale contains the same notes as C $\sharp$  melodic minor; an E altered scale contains the same notes as F melodic minor; etc. The altered scale is often used with altered dominant chords or to create tension on dominant chords in otherwise diatonic situations.

The *Locrian #2* scale is typically used with  $m7\flat 5$  chords and is so named to distinguish it from the pure Locrian, whose second degree is only a half step above the tonic note. It works well when the major 9th is used in the voicing of the  $m7\flat 5$  chord.

The *Lydian augmented* scale is used on  $maj7\sharp 5$  chords. Although relatively rare, this scale is sometimes used to spice up major seventh chords or to create unusual sounds.

The other modes from the melodic minor scale are less common and are referred to in the chord-scale chart later in this chapter.

## The Diminished Scale

The *diminished scale* is an artificial, symmetrical eight-note scale consisting of alternating whole and half steps. The scale has two forms: the *whole-half* version and the *half-whole* version. The whole-half diminished scale is typically used with a diminished chord; the half-whole diminished scale is typically used with a dominant chord. For clarity of function, these scales will be referred to as *diminished diminished* and *dominant diminished*, respectively.



The two forms of the scale are symmetrical, as are diminished seventh chords; just as there are really only three different diminished chords, there are three different diminished scales that can be arranged in groups: C–E $\flat$ –G $\flat$ –A; C $\sharp$ –E–G–B $\flat$ ; and D–F–A $\flat$ –B. Each group contains enharmonically the same notes in different orders.

## The Whole Tone Scale

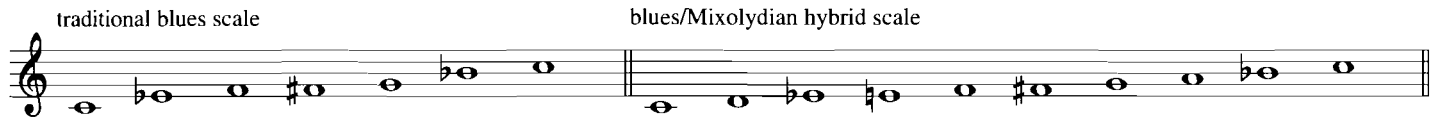
The *whole tone scale* is an artificial six-note symmetrical scale made up of all whole steps. Essentially, there are only two whole tone scales; each uses half of all twelve available notes. When used in isolation, a whole tone scale is really tonic-less, thus there is no hierarchy of pitch relationships. The French composer Claude Debussy made extensive use of this to create a sense of floating or ambiguous tonality. Jazz players typically superimpose a whole tone scale on a  $7\flat 5$  or  $\sharp 5$  chord; the tonality is implied by the dominant functioning chord.





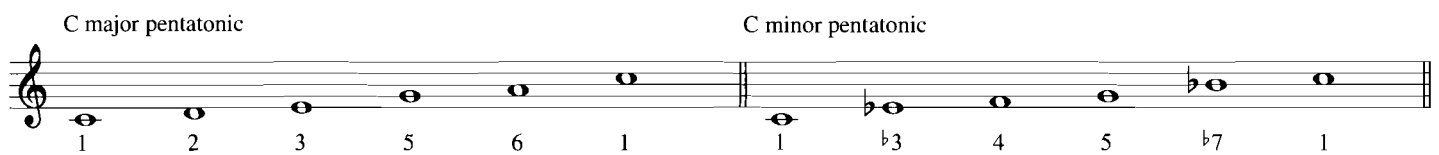
## The Blues Scale

The *blues scale* was a staple of jazz from its beginnings, and its use continued in post bop. While the blues scale is sometimes isolated for stretches of time in improvised solos, players often play from a hybrid *blues/Mixolydian* scale.

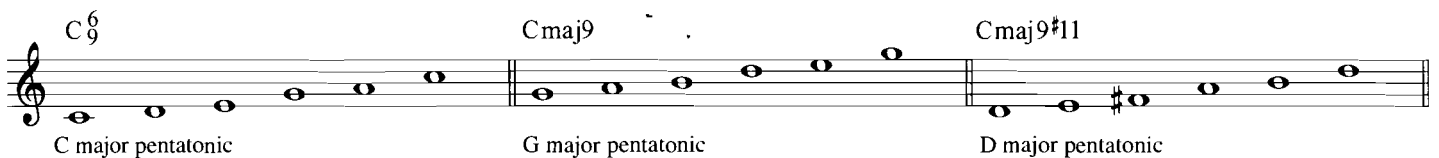


## Pentatonic Scales

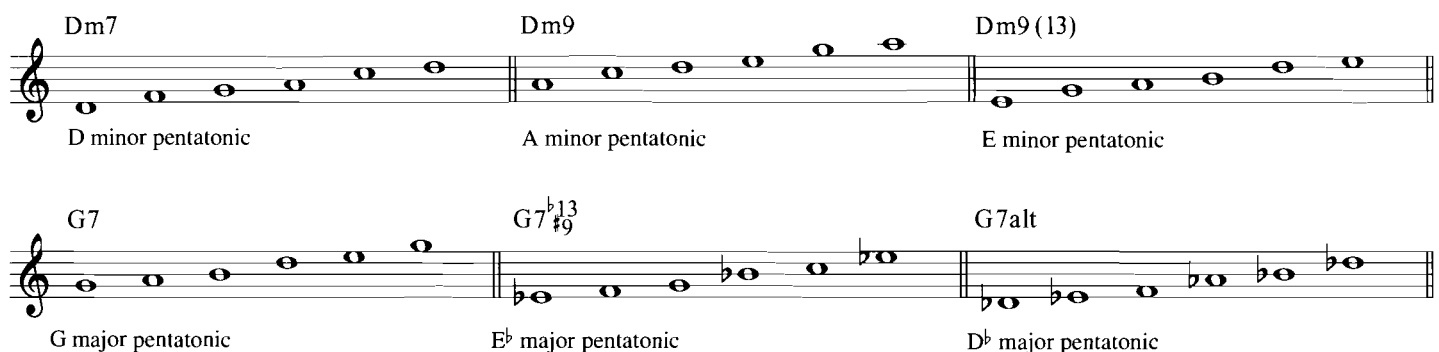
Two types of *pentatonic* (five-note) scales are commonly used in post bop: *major pentatonic* and *minor pentatonic*. They can be derived by extracting notes from the major and natural minor scales as shown below.



In post bop jazz, pentatonic scales are used primarily as superimposed scales, played over a prevailing tonality or chord. By restricting a melodic passage to only five notes, certain colors or chord tones can be emphasized. For instance, on a C major type chord, three different pentatonic scales are commonly played—C, G, and D major pentatonic. Each emphasizes different colors or chord tones.



Pentatonic scales can be superimposed on other chord qualities as well. Below are common pentatonic scales for minor seventh and dominant seventh chords.



## Scales and Improvisation

One can improvise with all these scales and others by associating certain scales with certain chords in certain contexts. For instance, a minor seventh chord can be a II, III, or IV chord in major keys or a I or IV chord in minor keys. Different scales should be applied accordingly. Below is a chart that can act as a guide. The list is not meant to be comprehensive, but to show some obvious possibilities. Bear in mind that scales are not a necessary component of improvisation; some players rely on them more than others do.

Chord Type	Function	Scales
maj7, maj6, maj9	I or IV in major III or VI in minor	major, Lydian major pentatonic from R, 5th, and 2nd blues from 6th
maj7 <sup>b</sup> 5, maj7 <sup>#</sup> 11	I or IV in major III or VI in minor	Lydian
maj7 <sup>#</sup> 5	ambiguous	Lydian Augmented
m7	II in major	Dorian or major of prevailing key minor pentatonic from R, 5th, and 2nd diminished diminished (whole-half) blues
m7	VI in major	Aeolian or major of prevailing key minor pentatonic from R, 5th, and 4th blues
m7	III in major	Phrygian or major of prevailing key minor pentatonic from R, 5th, and 4th blues
m7	I in minor	Aeolian (natural minor) Dorian minor pentatonic from R, 5th, and 2nd blues
m7	IV in minor	Dorian minor pentatonic from R, 5th, and 2nd blues
dom 7 (unaltered)	V in major	Mixolydian or major of prevailing key Lydian Dominant major pentatonic
dom 7 (unaltered)	V in minor	Mixolydian <sup>b</sup> 6 or melodic minor from 4th
7 <sup>b</sup> 5 or 7 <sup>#</sup> 11	V in major	major pentatonic Lydian Dominant
7 <sup>b</sup> 5 or 7 <sup>#</sup> 11	V in minor	whole tone
7 <sup>b</sup> 9	V in major	dominant diminished (half-whole) Altered

Chord Type	Function	Scales
7 <sup>b</sup> 9	V in minor	Altered harmonic minor of prevailing key
7 <sup>#</sup> 9	V in major	Altered dominant diminished (half-whole) Dorian minor pentatonic blues
7 <sup>#</sup> 9	V in minor	Altered Aeolian minor pentatonic blues
dom7 alt	V in major	Altered dominant diminished (half-whole) major pentatonic from <sup>b</sup> 5th and <sup>b</sup> 6th
dom 7	IV in major	Lydian Dominant
7sus4	V in major	Mixolydian or major of prevailing key minor pentatonic from 2nd and 5th
m(maj7)	I in minor	melodic minor
m6	I in minor	melodic minor Dorian minor pentatonic from root, 5th, and 2nd blues
m6	IV in minor	Dorian minor pentatonic from root, 5th, and 2nd
m7 <sup>b</sup> 5	II in minor	Locrian harmonic minor of prevailing key
m7 <sup>b</sup> 5(9) or m9 <sup>b</sup> 5	II in minor	Locrian #2 diminished diminished (whole-half)
m7 <sup>b</sup> 5	II in major	Locrian #2 diminished diminished (whole-half)
m7 <sup>b</sup> 5	VII in major	Locrian
°7	VII in major or minor, V chord sub, or passing chord	diminished diminished (whole-half) harmonic minor of prevailing minor key

## Chapter 4

# MODALITY

**M**odal music differs from tonal music in that it is based on scales rather than chords. Chords may be used, but they do not direct the flow of the music. In modal music, the center of gravity is the tonic note; in tonal music, the center of gravity is the tonic (I) chord. Although modal music pre-dates tonal music, it was not introduced into jazz until the late 1950s. The first major attempt at using modes in jazz, Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue*, paved the way not only for modal jazz, but post bop as well.

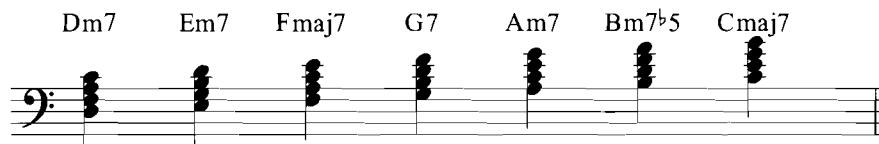
Tonal music is hierarchical; it works on many levels simultaneously. For instance, a C major chord can be the I chord in the key of C major and the V chord in F major at the same time. In the key of C major, a D7 chord is V of V (G) while it bears a II relationship to the I chord (C maj7). The entire concept of modulation relies on this. That is why there can be V of V, V of II, II–V–I of IV, etc. within one composition, while maintaining an ultimate tonic key. Modal music is more one-dimensional; the focus is more on pure melody. Modal performances seem to accumulate more than proceed.

Modes are usually derived from the major scale. All of these modes can be transposed to begin on any note. In chapter 3, the modes related to improvising on chords, each of which generates a scale to use while improvising melodies. In modal music, the opposite is the case; scales can generate chords. For a tune in D Dorian mode, the mode is predetermined, and various chords can be derived and improvised from it.

## Modal Chords

### *Diatonic Seventh Chords*

In most modal situations, the pianist is free to play any chords that fall within the mode's framework. Any simultaneous pitch aggregates derived from the mode will "work." Thus, one can play any diatonic seventh chord derived from the mode. Here's an example for D Dorian.



These chords can be voiced in all the ways described in previous chapters for one or two hands.

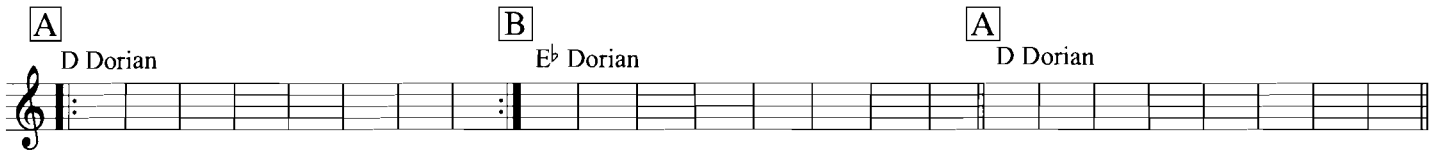
### *Quartal Diatonic Chords*

One can also derive quartal chords for one or two hands. Here are examples in D Dorian for three, four, five, and six notes.

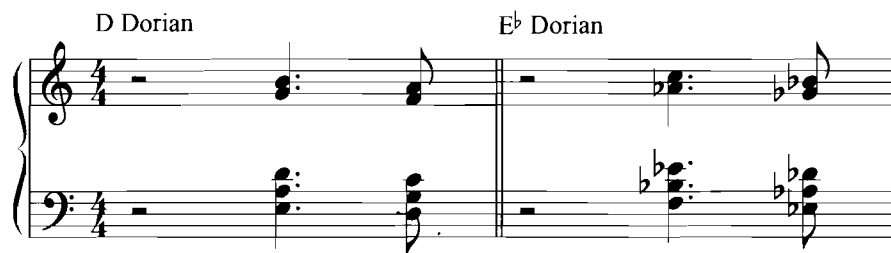


## “So What”

The most-played tune from *Kind of Blue*, “So What,” was radical for its time but did not really sound that way. One reason is the beautiful and subtle playing on it; another is that it still contains traditional elements. The form is that of a traditional thirty-two-measure pop song: AABA, with each section lasting eight measures. Instead of chord progressions, each section is governed by a mode: the A sections are in D Dorian, and the B section is in E<sup>b</sup> Dorian. Once the tune has begun, there are twenty-four measures in a row of D Dorian—the last A section plus the first two A sections—before the B section arrives. The B section creates tension by shifting the mode up a half step. That tension is released at the return of the A section.



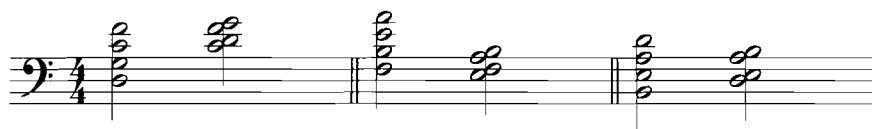
The famous “So What” voicing used by Bill Evans started a revolution in post bop harmonic practice. The combined quartal-tertial voicing, comprised of two 4ths and a major 3rd, was unique at the time. Note that the voicings are not for any specific chords, but rather for a specific mode, in this case Dorian.



Again, we should be reminded that “sound” is crucial in determining voicings. In a modal setting that lacks predetermined chords and harmonic syntax, the coloristic aspect of a voicing is paramount.

## Quartal Clusters

Cluster sounds can be derived from quartal voicings by rearranging the notes to form 2nds. These voicings can offer relief from open quartal voicings while retaining a quartal quality.



## Modal Comping

*Modal comping* is free from predetermined chord changes, but usually employs many different “chords.” These chords are derived from the mode, and almost any sound or voicing can be used to imply the mode rather than any particular chord. Below is an example of how a pianist might comp in a D Dorian situation. The sonorities vary among “So What,” quartal, tertial, and cluster voicings, all of which come from the mode.



TRACK 2

D Dorian

## Modal Improvisation

The concept of *modal improvisation* seems simple on the surface; any notes from the mode will work. While this is true, it is no guarantee of success. The lack of harmonic progression and cadence leaves the improviser with perhaps too much freedom. While one note can seem dynamic and flowing when held over changing harmony, the same held note can seem static and dull in a modal situation. In modal playing, the improviser is forced to think melodically rather than harmonically. Traditional melodic devices, such as sequences, motivic development, and manipulation work well in modal settings.

### Patterns

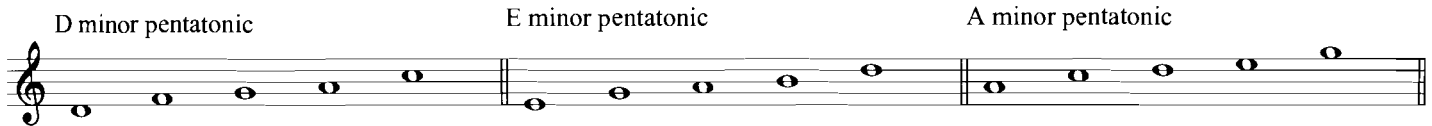
Modal tunes invite pattern playing. *Patterns* are groups of usually two to six notes that are sequenced to form longer lines. They differ from *motives* because they lack any rhythmic definition. They usually contain notes of the same duration, such as all eighth notes or all sixteenth notes, etc. Patterns offer ways of getting around the mode while keeping up rhythmic momentum.

Ascending 4ths      Descending scale triplets

Ascending 7th chords in triplets      Descending 1st inversion 7th chords

## ***Pentatonic Scales***

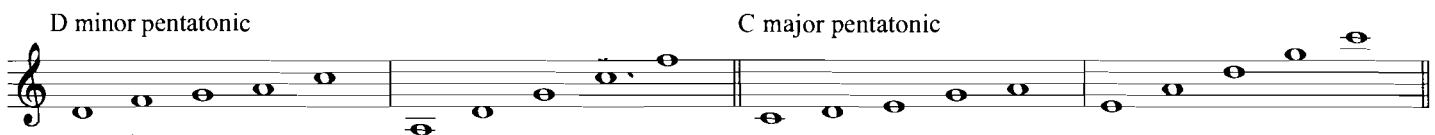
Players often superimpose pentatonic scales on the prevailing mode. The process is similar to that used when superimposing on a chord. The use of different pentatonic scales on the same mode offers variety in modal coloring by isolating certain tones at the expense of others. Most pentatonic playing is done in modal situations. Below are the three most common pentatonic scales superimposed on a Dorian mode, shown here for D Dorian. These are minor pentatonic scales built from the tonic, second degree, and fifth degree of the mode.



By isolating one of these pentatonic scales for short or long periods of time, the player extracts a mode (scale) from within the mode. If modes can be thought of as colors, these inner pentatonic scales can be thought of as different tints of those colors. Theorists have described these particular pentatonic scales used on Dorian in terms of most “inside” and most “outside.” The minor pentatonic scale from D (tonic) seems to be more firmly rooted in the tonic modality, the scale from E (second degree) much less so, and the scale from A (fifth degree) somewhere in between. See Chapters 7 and 8 on McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea for examples of pentatonic superimposition in modal contexts.

## Melodic Fourths

Fourths are used melodically as well as harmonically in modal playing. The relationship between fourths and pentatonic scales becomes apparent in much modal playing. McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea, among others, have amply explored this relationship. The notes of a traditional pentatonic scale can be rearranged into a series of perfect 4ths.



Many modal melodies are made of 4ths, many of them from pentatonic scales. Below is a typical modal melody built around 4ths in F Dorian.



### ***Four-Note Melodic Cells***

Post bop players often isolated groupings of notes and sequenced them both in and out of the prevailing key or mode. Often these groupings, or *cells*, are derived from pentatonic scales. The extracted *four-note cells* serve as patterns from which to construct improvised melodies. Four-note pentatonic cells derived from the C major (or A minor) pentatonic scale are shown below.



The notes of these cells can be played in any order while the cell itself is transposed to other pitch levels. The following line uses the same four-note cell throughout, transposed from C to D and back to C major pentatonic.

## Side-Slipping

Jazz musicians often play outside the mode temporarily. This is known as *side-slipping*. It is usually done by raising or lowering the mode, scale, or chord by a half step. This happens most often in modal settings, but the technique is used also in tonal environments. Four-note cells are often used in these situations. The next example demonstrates side-slipping and left-hand modal voicings during a typical modal improvisation in D Dorian. Side-slipping offers a way to relieve the monotony of the mode and a way of creating *tension* and *relief*.



## Modalization

Modalization refers to the process of superimposing modal attributes upon an otherwise non-modal framework. It is one of the hallmarks of post bop jazz. Modalization can be done melodically and/or harmonically. The whole concept of deriving scales from chords is a form of modalization, but true modalization occurs when conventions of consonance and dissonance in relation to a chord are ignored at the expense of modal melody. One can generally modalize in three ways:

- 1) Select a single mode to play over changing chords. In this example, the right hand plays on a D minor pentatonic scale extracted from B $\flat$  Ionian (major), against a II–V–I progression in B $\flat$  major.

TRACK 4

- 2) Select a single mode to superimpose on a chord progression. Here the right hand plays from the chord changes while the left hand treats the scale of the key of F major as an Ionian mode.

TRACK 5

- 3) Treat both hands modally. In this example, side-slipping is used in both hands.

TRACK 6

## CHAPTER 5

# BILL EVANS

**P**ost bop piano begins fully with Bill Evans' playing during the late 1950s. He remains the most influential pianist of the post-bop era. Almost all pianists after him have incorporated at least some of his innovations. A brief list of his most important innovations follows.

- Systematized and explored the use of rootless voicings
- Used chord voicings as tone colors
- Used fragments for chord voicings
- Used quartal voicings
- Pioneered the use of modal jazz
- Used scales and modes for improvisation and compositions
- Developed ideas during improvisations
- Used the damper pedal often
- Developed a new way to play block chords
- Pioneered the concept of rhythm-section interplay along with Scott LaFaro and Paul Motian

Evans was a major contributor to the Miles Davis album, *Kind of Blue*. His pioneering trio with Scott LaFaro and Paul Motian demonstrated that jazz could be freer without being “free” (à la Ornette Coleman). This group leads directly to the freewheeling Miles Davis rhythm section of the 1960s with Herbie Hancock, Ron Carter, and Tony Williams. Practically all of the post bop characteristics described in the previous chapters of this book relate to the originality, artistry, and innovations of Bill Evans.

### Melodic Ideas

Bill Evans developed an original approach to improvisation based on the development and evolution of *ideas*. An idea usually consists of a grouping of notes that have a distinct melodic and rhythmic character. This is commonly referred to as a *motive*. Some ideas can be just rhythmic or intervallic in character. *Motivic development* in jazz was not new with Evans, but he used the technique in unique ways, developing an organic method of evolving or growing new material from previously played material.

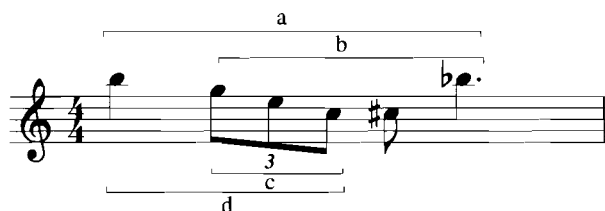
### Motives

Here is an Evans-esque improvised melody based on the interval of a descending 5th. Each statement of the idea or motive (a) descends stepwise, creating a connecting step-wise basic (or long-range) pitch motion (indicated by asterisks). (This type of long-range step-wise connection will be indicated throughout the book.)

TRACK 7  
(meas. 1–4)

## Motivic Development

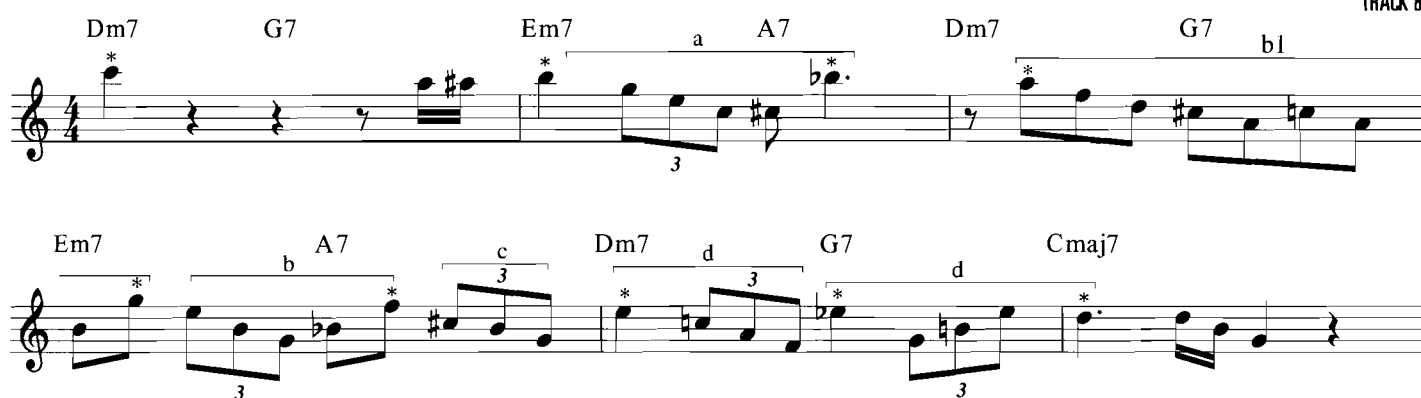
In a latter version of the same tune, Evans again develops a motive, but now the motive and process are more complex. He breaks the motive into component parts and recombines them to form a melody. The entire motive and its components are analyzed below.



Notice in the following full excerpt how the basic pitch line descends stepwise, and the original idea is fragmented and reassembled in an interesting and unpredictable manner. Also, notice the (b1) motive in the third and fourth measures. The triplet rhythm is slightly changed, and a typical Evans neighbor note figure is inserted in the middle. This demonstrates Evans's subtlety and compositional/organic approach to improvisation.



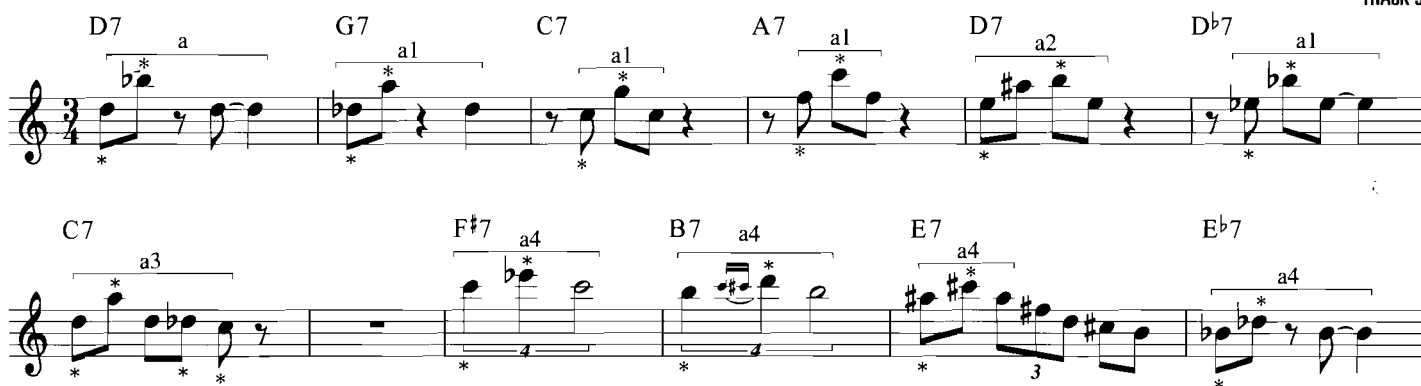
TRACK 8



The next excerpt develops and evolves the original idea of a leap up and back to the starting note (a) in subtle and interesting ways.



TRACK 9



## Rhythmic Displacement and Variation

Evans often kept the pitch element of a motive while changing its rhythm parameters. This example rhythmically manipulates a simple motive based on a descending scale. The whole segment is organized within a descending basic pitch line.



TRACK 10

## Organic Evolution

This example uses a motive and combines it with several new ideas. After the opening (a) motive comes (c), (d), and (e) in order. Then (e) begins to “grow” with each restatement after (e1). After a reappearance of (c) and (d), (e) re-emerges in a chromatic form as a dominant diminished scale, getting even longer and higher. After a descending motion that includes the (d) idea, (e) grows still larger as a dominant diminished scale. After a descending line, (a1) ends the segment.



TRACK 11

## Arches

There is another idea at work in the previous example that is common to all phases of Bill Evans's career: the shaping of phrases into *arches*, indicated by the dotted lines. These “waves” of notes create a rhythm and sense of drama all their own. Notice how he resolves the tension of the segment with the reappearance of the diatonic (a) idea.

## Sequences

Evans often sequenced melodic fragments. In the following example, three statements of a melodic idea are played on different pitch levels. The first two statements are identical, but the third is changed slightly. Notice how each statement begins in a different spot of the measure. Notice also the mini arch shapes.



TRACK 12



This example elaborates on a sequence by transforming the idea each time. Notice the arches and how the last statement is stretched out.



TRACK 13

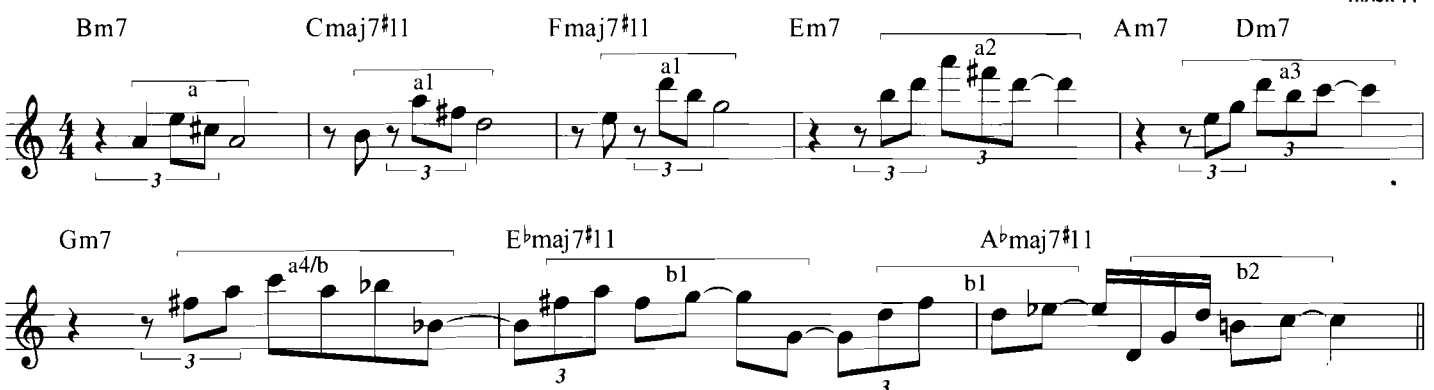


## Motivic Transformation

Evans also used *motivic transformation* in his solos. This occurs when a motive is gradually developed and changed into a new motive. In the example below, Evans develops and distorts his initial idea into a new idea. The opening interval of a 5th in (a) is changed to a 7th in (a1) and is filled in at (a2). The last note is changed in (a3) and moves up by step instead of down by a 3rd. A downward octave leap is added to the end of (a3), and while this can be thought of as (a4), it has been changed so much from the initial motive that we also can call it (b). The (b) motive is then shortened to form (b1), and then distorted slightly to form (b2).



TRACK 14



## Repeated Notes and Figures

Often, Evans would repeat a note or interval to produce an interesting rhythmic effect. Notice the cross-rhythmic effect shown below. Notice also the coloristic effect of the repeated pitch over changing harmony.



TRACK 15

## Varied Repetition

Evans often played similar lines on reoccurring chord changes during a particular tune. In an AABA form, for example, he might play similar material for the first four measures of each A section, for a chorus or more. The excerpt below shows several variations on a similar section of the tune.



TRACK 16

## Local Ideas

*Local ideas* are short ideas that seem to arrive spontaneously and spawn instant variations of themselves. Local ideas differ from motives in that they are purely local in effect and embedded in the general flow of a melodic line (rather than isolated or related to long-term ideas). The following example spins out the descending three-note stepwise idea from the first measure into the succeeding two measures. The idea is twice inverted (x1), and then extended (x2) in the second measure.

## Interior Motives

*Interior motives* are patterns of notes that are sequenced and connected to form longer lines. In this example, a sequential-like line is spun from the opening idea.

## Rhythmic Ideas

Bill Evans often developed rhythmic ideas with both hands, sometimes playing one hand off the other. In the example below, the right hand plays the first two notes, and the left plays the third note of repeating triplets, creating a call-and-response effect.

## Cross Rhythms

Evans often superimposed a *cross rhythm* or other meter against the prevailing meter, creating polyrhythmic or polymetric effects. Here he plays a triple jazz waltz cross rhythm over the quadruple meter.



TRACK 20

Chord progression: B7, Em, Em7, E7, Am7, D7, Dm7, G7

8va ----- loco

In the next excerpt, he superimposes a duple meter over the original triple meter.



TRACK 21

Chord progression: E7, A7, Dm7, A7, Dm7, A7, G7

## MELODIC DEVICES

### Characteristic Figure

Bill Evans often played a figure characterized by a descending chromatic motion that alternates with a repeated note. The intervals usually involve 3rds, or 3rds and 2nds. The effect here is to continue a rhythmic motion (eighth notes, sixteenth notes, etc.) while delaying the chromatic motion. Three examples follow.



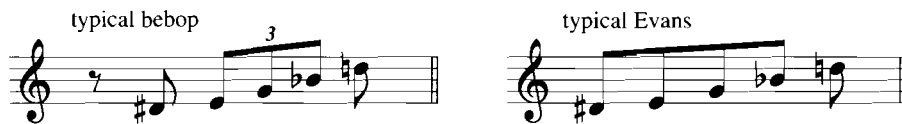
TRACK 22

Chord progression: Cmaj7, Am7, Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, Fmaj7

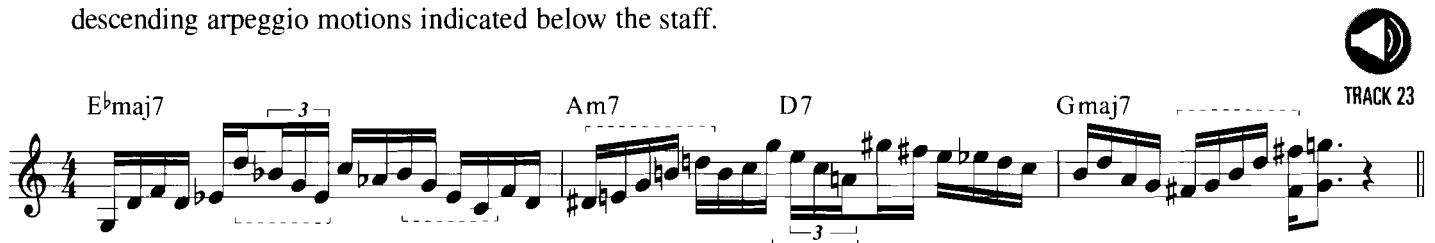


## Arpeggios

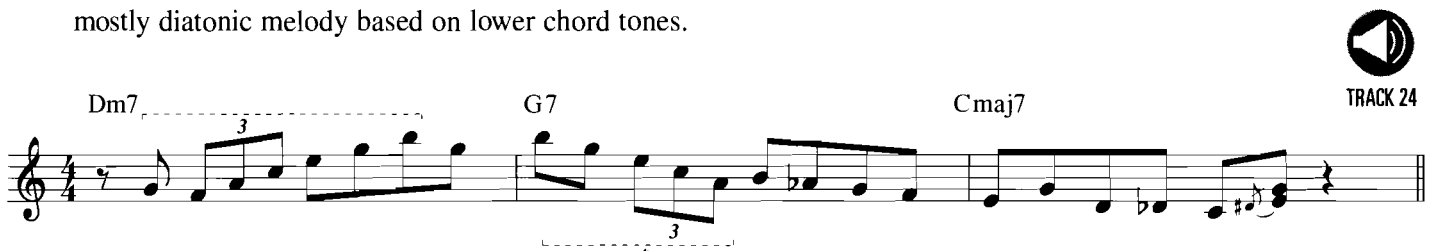
Evans often used arpeggios in his melodic lines. They consisted of lower and upper chord tones. He often played bebop-like figures and lines but disguised them in various ways. The ascending arpeggio preceded by a stepwise motion was a staple of the bebop style; notice its use in the previous example. While bebop players used the stepwise pickup as more of an upbeat or anacrusis to a beat, Evans started the prefix on the beat more often than not.



Notice in this excerpt how these bebop-like figures sound very unlike bebop in this context. Notice also the descending arpeggio motions indicated below the staff.



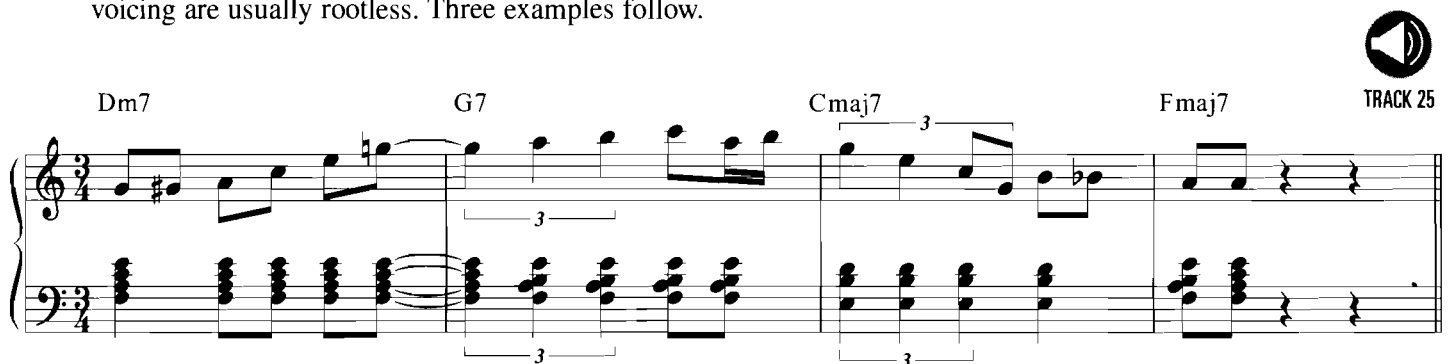
Evans constructed many of his lines in 3rds or primarily 3rds. Here is an example in typical Evans fashion; an ascending diatonic line in 3rds is followed by a descending diatonic motion in 3rds, forming an arch. The descending motion is then continued with a chromatically inflected scalar motion that resolves to a mostly diatonic melody based on lower chord tones.



## Left-Hand Techniques

### Rhythmic Unison

Bill Evans invented a new way to play block chords. The technique is quite simple; the right hand plays single-note lines while the left plays a chord voicing with each right-hand note. In actual practice, the left hand plays along with most (but not necessarily all) of the right-hand notes. This technique ingeniously combines the best of two worlds: the rich texture and colors of block chords, including locked hands techniques, are preserved while the right hand is free to play quick, articulated, and expressive lines. As in other block chord techniques, each melody note is colored by the left-hand voicing. Naturally for Evans, these voicings are usually rootless. Three examples follow.





TRACK 26

Dm9      Dm9#5      Dm6      D7      Gm7

F#°7      Ebmaj7      F#°7      Fm7      Bb7      Gm7      F#°7

## Comping

Evans comped in various ways. Sometimes the left hand operated on a plane all its own, while at other times it worked with or off the right hand. He would sometimes integrate the left and right hands to create various rhythmic patterns and/or ideas.

Evans would sometimes comp using a consistent rhythmic pattern. He would do this for only brief periods—never much more than eight measures. The following excerpt demonstrates consistent rhythmic comping on the “ands” of beats 2 and 4. This sets the anticipation of beats 1 and 3 and is reminiscent of Ahmad Jamal’s and Red Garland’s comping approach. Notice the typical Evans arch in the right-hand line.



TRACK 27

Dm7      G7      C7      A7b13      Dm7      G7      C6

8va      loco

Here the left hand reinforces accents in the right-hand line from the end of the second measure on.



TRACK 28

Fmaj7      B7      Bb7

A7      Dm7      G7      Cmaj7      Am7      Dm7

The next excerpt shows an example of the left hand working off the right-hand line. Here the left hand compliments the right hand and fills the gaps for the shortened motive.



TRACK 29

## Chords with Two Hands

### Block Chords

Sometimes Evans played passages using the locked hands technique. In this example, the left hand doubles the top note an octave below.



TRACK 30

Here is an example of how Evans used the drop 2 technique.



TRACK 31

From time to time, Evans played melodies with full chords in both hands.



TRACK 32

## Comping with Two Hands

Evans used most of the voicings described earlier in this book when he comped for someone else. He freely combined root with rootless, open with closed, and quartal with tertial. Notice the variety of sound and texture in this excerpt behind a bass solo.

Two staves of music in 3/4 time. The first staff contains four measures with the following chords: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, and Fmaj7. The second staff contains five measures with the following chords: Bm7<sup>b</sup>5, E7, Am7, A7, and Dm7. The notation shows various voicings, including rootless and open voicings, in both hands.

This is a tune and improvisation inspired by Bill Evans.

## IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME



TRACK 33

John Valerio

Three staves of music in 4/4 time. The first staff contains five measures with the following chords: Am7, B<sup>b</sup>7, E<sup>b</sup>maj7, D7, and Gm7. The second staff contains five measures with the following chords: Cm7, Fm7, E7, Am7, and B<sup>b</sup>7. The third staff contains four measures with the following chords: E<sup>b</sup>maj7, D7, Gm7, and Cm7. The notation includes various voicings, including rootless and open voicings, in both hands. A measure number '6' is indicated at the start of the second staff, and '11' is indicated at the start of the third staff.

15 Fm7 Bbm7 Eb7 Abmaj7

19 Db7 Gbmaj7 Bmaj7 Emaj7

23 Am7 Dm7 Gm7 Cm7

28 Fm7 E7 Fine Am7 Bb7 Ebmaj7

33 D7 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7

37 E7 Am7 Bb7 Ebmaj7

41 D7 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7

45 Bbm7 Eb7 Abmaj7 Db7

49 Gbmaj7 Bmaj7 Emaj7

52 Am7 Dm7

55 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7 E7

59 Am7 Bb7 Ebmaj7 D7

63 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7

66 E7 Am7 B<sup>b</sup>7

69 E<sup>b</sup>maj7 D7 Gm7 Cm7

73 Fm7 B<sup>b</sup>m7 E<sup>b</sup>7 A<sup>b</sup>maj7

77 D<sup>b</sup>7 G<sup>b</sup>maj7 Bmaj7 E<sup>b</sup>maj7

81 Am7 Dm7

84 Gm7 Cm7 Fm7 E7 D.C. al Fine

# HERBIE HANCOCK

**H**erbie Hancock developed an original style derived in part from Bill Evans and Wynton Kelly, the two pianists that preceded him in Miles Davis's band. He employed many of Evans's voicings as well as his scale approach. Hancock's buoyant touch and blues-like colorations were like Kelly's. Hancock ventured into many areas, including fusion, free jazz, and pop, but his post bop style of the 1960s will be the focus here. While with the Miles Davis band during the 1960s, Hancock was a member of what many consider the greatest rhythm section of all time, including Ron Carter on bass and Tony Williams on drums. He set the standard for post bop comping that could be sensitive or aggressive, flowing or rhythmic. He was instrumental in developing a post bop composition style as well as a piano style.

## Melodic Ideas

### Motives

Hancock often exploited motives in his playing, many of which seem to arrive from nowhere and take on lives of their own. They usually evolve into repetitive riff-like figures that have a clearly defined pitch and rhythmic character. In this excerpt he seems to stumble upon an idea based on a descending 3rd that he turns it into a groove-based riff.

Track 34 shows a melodic excerpt in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The notation is spread across two staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 6, with chords Am7<sup>b</sup>5, D7, Gm7, Gm *loco*, Cm7, and F7 indicated above. The second staff contains measures 7 through 11, with chords B<sup>b</sup>maj7, E<sup>b</sup>maj7, Am7<sup>b</sup>5, D7, and Gm indicated above. The melody is characterized by a descending 3rd interval in the first measure, which then becomes a groove-based riff.



TRACK 34

The next example shows another favorite Hancock device: creating a riff-like motive but subtly varying the rhythm each time. Notice how the original idea (a) gets turned into (a1) by changing the last note from a descending leap to an ascending leap. The two versions then alternate in a call and response-like manner.

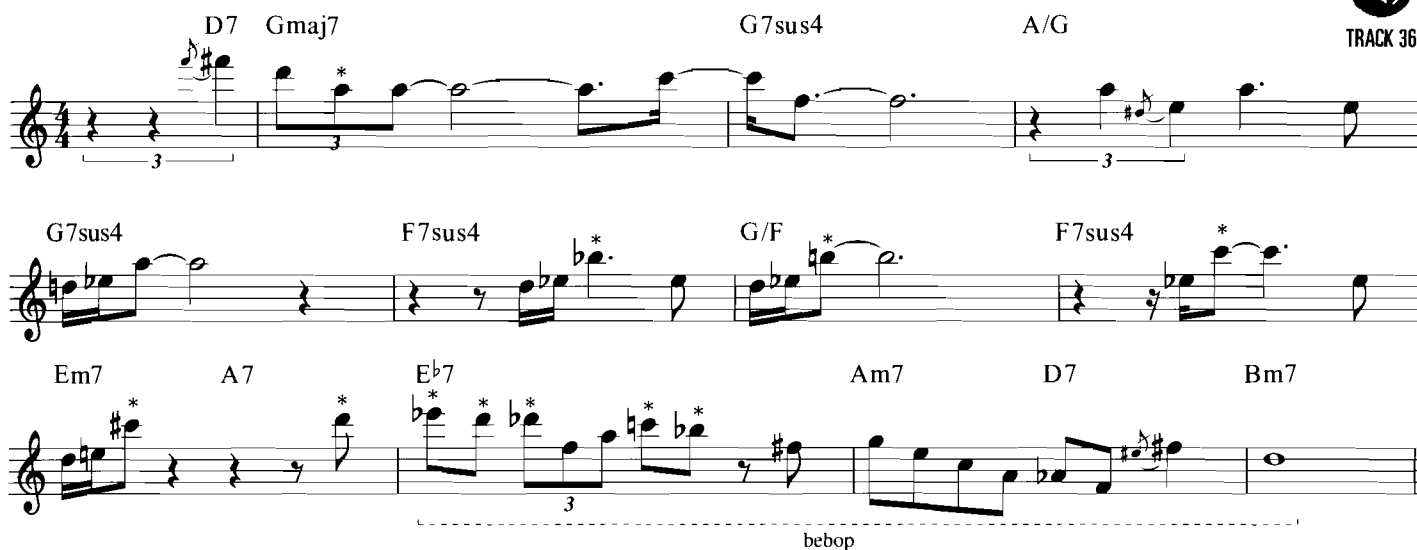
Track 35 shows a melodic excerpt in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The notation is spread across three staves. The first staff contains measures 1 through 4, with chords C7, F7, and B<sup>b</sup>maj7 indicated above. The second staff contains measures 5 through 8, with chords Am7<sup>b</sup>5, D7, Gm7, Fm7, and B<sup>b</sup>7 indicated above. The third staff contains measures 9 through 12, with chords E<sup>b</sup>7sus4, E<sup>b</sup>7, D7, Gm, and B<sup>b</sup>7 indicated above. The melody is characterized by a riff-like motive that alternates between two versions, (a) and (a1), in a call and response-like manner.



TRACK 35



The following example shows how Hancock turns a vague idea based on 4ths and 5ths into a clearly defined motive whose last notes get higher each time. The passage ends with a bebop-like line, in typical Hancock fashion. Notice the ascending basic pitch motion (marked by asterisks).



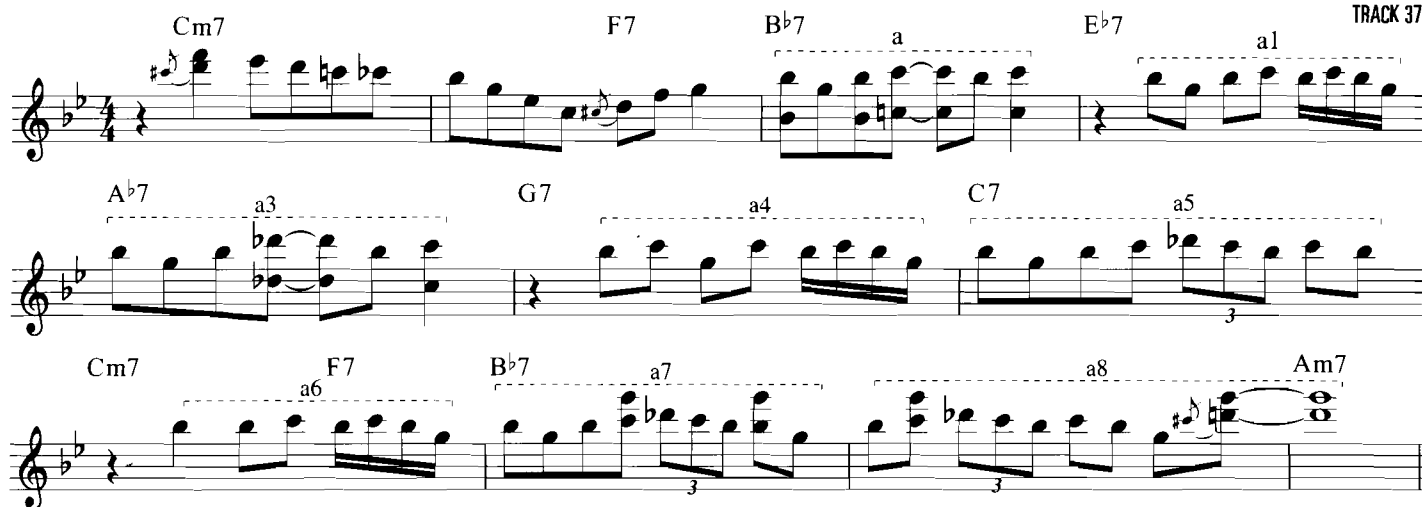
Track 36

Chords: D7, Gmaj7, G7sus4, A/G, G7sus4, F7sus4, G/F, F7sus4, Em7, A7, Eb7, Am7, D7, Bm7.

Annotations: \* (ascending pitch motion), 3 (triplets), bebop.

### Varied Repetition

The next example shows how Hancock develops a blues riff by varying each repetition. Notice the way he emphasizes certain notes with octaves in the beginning and other intervals toward the end.



Track 37

Chords: Cm7, F7, Bb7, Eb7, Ab7, G7, C7, Cm7, F7, Bb7, Am7.

Annotations: a, a1, a3, a4, a5, a6, a7, a8 (octave markings), 3 (triplets).

### Sequenced Patterns and Interior Motives

Hancock often sequenced patterns (interior motives) to form longer lines. Here Hancock sequences a simple descending whole-step pattern by playing it a half step lower each time. This sequence is interrupted briefly by a chromatic line during the second measure.



Track 38

Chords: F7, Bb7, Eb7, D7, G7, C7.

Annotations: blues, etc., chromatic.

Hancock often played pattern runs reminiscent of Art Tatum. This example shows a repetitive triplet pattern sequenced a 3rd higher each time.

TRACK 39

Hancock often sequenced arpeggio patterns. In the following example, he plays upper structure arpeggios with added notes beginning with Em/G7, Am/C7, etc.

TRACK 40

## Sequenced Lines

Hancock often sequenced longer lines with variations. This example shows two sequenced variations on the first idea. Notice the triplet pattern in the first two statements. The third statement follows the same motion as the others, but lacks the inner sequential triplet idea.

TRACK 41

## MELODIC DEVICES

### Blues

Herbie Hancock often flavored his solos with blues licks and blue notes derived from the blues scale. Three excerpts follow.

TRACK 42

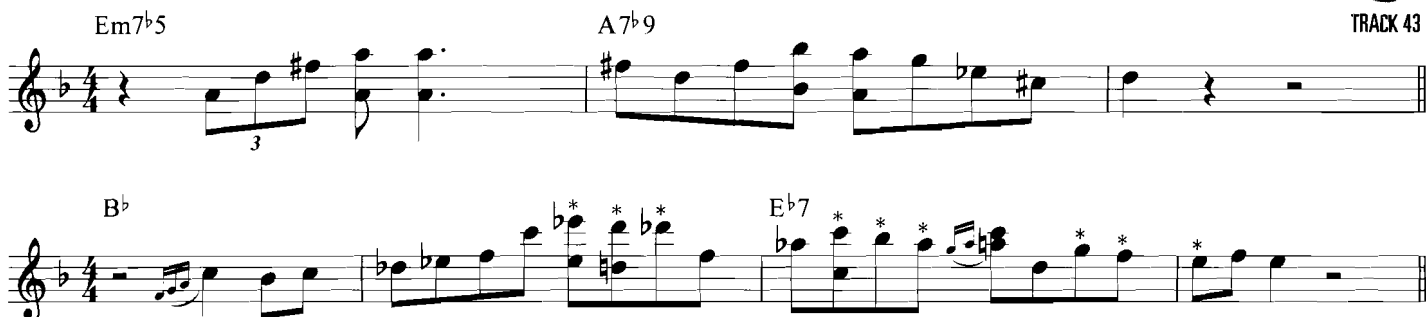


## Octaves

Hancock often interspersed octaves among his single-note lines. The use of octaves gives these notes special emphasis within the melodic line. Two examples follow.



TRACK 43

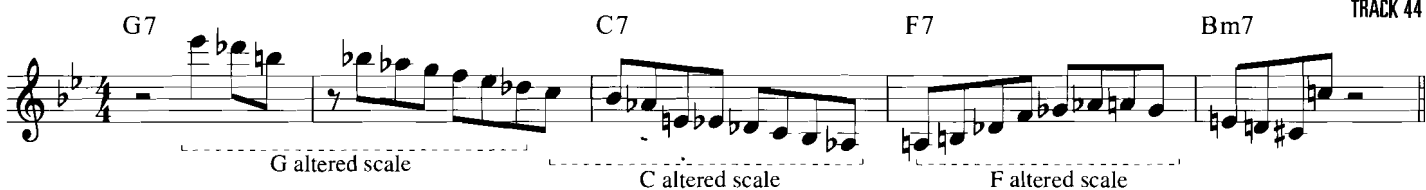


## Altered Scales

Hancock used modern scales frequently. He often colored his dominant chords with altered scales. This example has altered scales switching for each dominant chord.



TRACK 44



## Dominant Diminished Scales

Hancock also made use of the dominant diminished (half-whole) scale on dominant chords.



TRACK 45

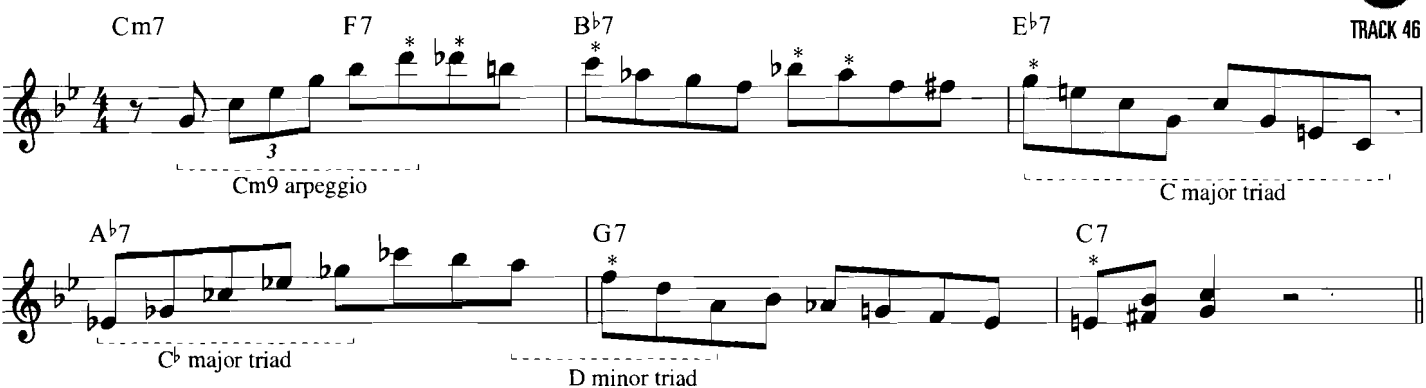


## Arpeggios

Hancock often thought in upper-structure polychordal formations. He used them most often as superimposed arpeggios. This example follows the Cm9 arpeggio with arpeggios based on C/Eb7, Cb/Ab7, and Dm/G7.



TRACK 46



## Left-Hand Comping

Hancock voiced chords and comped in the left hand much like Bill Evans. He preferred two-, three-, and four-note rootless voicings. In this example, the random-like nature of the left-hand comping gives impetus to the right-hand line and supplies tension and variety to the repetitive right-hand blues lick.



TRACK 47

Track 47 musical score showing two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system includes chords B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ 7, A $\flat$ 7, and G7. The second system includes chords C7, Cm7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, and Am7. The right hand plays a repetitive blues lick, while the left hand provides random-like comping with rootless voicings.

In this excerpt he plays a more consistent left-hand rhythm à la Red Garland. Notice the chord and upper structure arpeggios, as well as the basic pitch motion indicated by (\*).



TRACK 48

Track 48 musical score showing two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system includes chords Cm7, F7, B $\flat$ 7, E $\flat$ 7, and C triad. The second system includes chords D7alt, B triad, G7, Dm triad, and C7. The right hand plays a consistent left-hand rhythm with arpeggios and pitch motion indicated by (\*).

## Chords with Two Hands

### Block Chords

Hancock often played solos with two-hand chording. These chords usually consisted of left-hand rootless voicings and right-hand quartal structures, upper structures, or filled-in octaves. He often repeated these chords in very distinct, emphatic rhythms.



TRACK 49

Sheet music for two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system is labeled **Cm7/F** and **8va**. The second system is labeled **Am7/D** and **8va**. Both systems show dense, block-like chordal textures in the right hand, often spanning multiple octaves, and more active, rootless voicings in the left hand.

### Comping with Two Hands

All of the voicings shown above are typical of the voicings Hancock used for comping. Below are voicings and rhythmic characteristics that are typical of his post-bop comping. These bright and clear voicings work well with an aggressive rhythm section.



TRACK 50

Sheet music for two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system shows chords **Cm7**, **F7**, **Bbmaj7**, and **Ebmaj7**. The second system shows **Am7b5**, **D7**, and **Gm**. The voicings are clear and bright, with distinct rhythmic patterns in both hands.

### Suspended Chords and Vamps

Hancock pioneered the use of suspended chords in post bop jazz. The neutral sound and ambiguous tonal leanings of these chords lent themselves to the modal and quasi-modal world of 1960s jazz. Hancock had a knack for inventing infectious rhythmic vamps.

Sheet music for two systems of piano accompaniment. The first system is labeled **C/D** and **D7sus4**. The second system is labeled **Cm7/F** and **F7sus4**. The music features sustained, open-sounding chords in the right hand and rhythmic patterns in the left hand.

Here is a tune and improvisation influenced by Herbie Hancock.

## DELPHIC DALLIANCE



TRACK 51

Sheet music for the piece "DELPHIC DALLIANCE", featuring a piano accompaniment and a melodic line. The music is in 4/4 time and consists of 24 measures.

The key signature is one flat (B-flat major / D minor). The tempo and style are indicated by the title and the influence of Herbie Hancock.

The sheet music is divided into six systems, each containing a piano part (left hand) and a melodic part (right hand). The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines, while the melodic part features a single-line melody.

Chord progressions and measure numbers are indicated above the staff:

- Measures 1-4: Gmaj7, Bbm7, Eb7
- Measures 5-8: Em7, A7, Bbm7, Eb7
- Measures 9-12: Abmaj7, Am7, D7, Fm7, Bb7
- Measures 13-16: Cm7, Am7, D7
- Measures 17-20: Bm7, Bm7, F#/E
- Measures 21-24: Bm7/E, Bbm7/Eb

25  $G^b\text{maj}7/A^b$  To Coda ⊕  
 $F^\sharp m7$

29  $Fm7$   $B^b7$   $B^bm7/E^b$   $B^b7^b9/E^b$

33  $D^bmaj7/E^b$   $Am7^b5$   $D7$   $Gmaj7$

37  $B^bm7$   $E^b7$   $Em7$   $A7$

41  $B^bm7$   $E^b7$   $A^bmaj7$   $Am7$   $D7$

45  $Fm7$   $B^b7$   $Cm7$   $Cm7/B^b$   $Am7$

50 **D7** **D7/C** **Bm7** **Bm7**

53 **F#/E**

55 **Bm7/E** **Bbm7/E**

58 **Eb7** **Gbmaj7/Ab**

61 **Gbm7** **Fm7** **Bb7**

65 **Bbm7/Eb** **Bb7b9/Eb** **Dbmaj7/Eb** **Am7b5** **D.C. al Coda** **D7**



⊕ *Coda*

97 Fm7 B $\flat$ 7 B $\flat$ m7/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7 $\flat$ 9/E $\flat$

101 B $\flat$ m7/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7 $\flat$ 9/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ m7/E $\flat$  B $\flat$ 7 $\flat$ 9/E $\flat$  *Repeat and fade*



## Melodic Devices

### Modal Patterns

Tyner developed a technique inspired by Coltrane that grouped notes into patterns. Each pattern served as a unit, and each unit took the place of one note. Tyner often played patterns that lie under moving hand positions. These note patterns were usually played very fast with consistent durations, such as all eighth notes or all sixteenth notes. Therefore, these patterns have no motivic value since they are rhythmically nondescript and are used from solo to solo. This example demonstrates similar but non-repetitive patterns running through an E Phrygian mode.



TRACK 54

### Right-Hand Modalization

Tyner modalized nearly all of his melodic material. Here he treats the dominant chords, C7 and F7, as two Mixolydian modes. Notice the quasi-recurring patterns and the modal-like left-hand playing.



TRACK 55

## Pentatonic Scales

Tyner made frequent use of pentatonic scales. He freely superimposes them onto existing scale and modes. This example uses a B $\flat$  Mixolydian mode on the B $\flat$ 7 chord, then a B $\flat$  minor (D $\flat$  major) pentatonic scale on both E $\flat$ 7 and B $\flat$ 7. Notice again the quasi-recurring patterns and modalized left-hand chords.



TRACK 56

B $\flat$ 7 B $\flat$  Mixolydian E $\flat$ 7 B $\flat$  minor pentatonic

B $\flat$ 7

## Side-Slipping

Tyner uses side-slipping extensively in modal and non-modal tunes. He typically starts a phrase with an inside tonality, slips to an outside tonality, then slips back to an inside tonality. This example starts within an F Mixolydian mode, then slips to a G $\flat$  major pentatonic, and then comes back to F Mixolydian. Notice how the C minor pentatonic is extracted from within the F Mixolydian at the end.



TRACK 57

F7sus4 triad F Mixolydian G $\flat$  major pentatonic C minor pentatonic F Mixolydian

Here he slips above and below the prevailing G minor tonality with both hands.



TRACK 58

Gm G minor A minor A $\flat$  minor F $\sharp$  minor G minor

## Repeated Patterns and Four-Note Cells

Tyner often played repeated patterns in the right hand while moving quartal voicings in the left hand. Here he repeats a four-note cell that could be derived from a G blues scale, while the left hand ascends in quartal chords.



TRACK 59

This next example superimposes a 3/4 cross meter on the underlying 4/4 by repeating a pattern characterized by 4ths and based on a B♭ minor (D♭ major) pentatonic scale.



TRACK 60

Tyner often takes four-note cells and plays the notes in a random-like order. In this example, he does so while superimposing a 3/8 cross rhythm by playing almost continuous dotted quarter notes in the left hand. The first cell (x) is very dissonant against the left hand, and the second (y) resolves the tension.



TRACK 61

## Chords with Two Hands

### Chord Melody

Sometimes Tyner extended the left-hand quartal voicings to four notes and played them with both hands, resulting in melodies played in *parallel 4ths*.



TRACK 62

Here a repetitive pattern is voiced in 4ths in the right hand while the left hand plays random-like parallel quartal chords against it.



TRACK 63

## Voicings and Comping for Two Hands

Tyner sometimes played rich, full tertial voicings while comping. He could establish strong overtones by playing open 5ths in the low register with his left hand while playing closed-position voicings in the right hand. At times he played the closed-position voicings in the left hand while playing octaves in the right hand, to produce a bell-like ringing sound. He often used four-, five-, and six-note quartal voicings in both hands but also superimposed two sets of three-note quartal voicings on each other to produce a variety of sounds.

Two systems of musical notation for Em voicings. The first system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3). The second system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3).

Two systems of musical notation for F7sus4 voicings. The first system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3). The second system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3).

Here, quartal as well as tertial voicings are played with upper structures.

Two systems of musical notation for Bb7 and A7 voicings. The first system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3). The second system shows a right hand with a series of chords (F#4, G#5, A#6, B#7) and a left hand with open 5ths (G2, B2, D3, F#3).

Here is a tune and improvisation inspired by McCoy Tyner.

## SOLSTICE



John Valerio

Sheet music for the piece "Solstice" by John Valerio, featuring piano accompaniment and improvisation inspired by McCoy Tyner. The music is written in 4/4 time and includes various chords and melodic lines.

Chords indicated: Cm7, Fm7, Ab7sus4, G7.

Measure numbers: 6, 11, 16, 21.

Section markers: To Coda (Coda symbol).

The score is divided into five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 1-5) features Cm7 and Fm7 chords. The second system (measures 6-9) includes Cm7, Ab7sus4, and G7 chords. The third system (measures 10-15) is marked "To Coda" and features Cm7 chords. The fourth system (measures 16-20) includes Fm7 and Cm7 chords. The fifth system (measures 21-24) includes Ab7sus4, G7, and Cm7 chords. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" in measure 19.



26 Fm7

31 Cm7      A<sup>b</sup>7sus4      G7      Cm7

36 Cm7

40 Fm7

43 Cm7

45 A<sup>b</sup>7sus4      G7      Cm7

49 Cm7

53 Fm7 Cm7

56 Ab7sus4

58 G7 Cm7 D.C. al Coda

⊕ Coda

73 Ab7sus4 G7 Cm7

77 Ab7sus4 G7 Cm7

## Chapter 8

# CHICK COREA

**C**hick Corea emerged during the 1960s as a promising young pianist while playing as a sideman with various groups and began recording under his own name in 1966. After playing with Miles Davis for a few years beginning in 1969, he mostly led his own groups. He originally played somewhat like Bill Evans, but later developed a right-hand and left-hand style partly derived from McCoy Tyner's playing. He made much use of pentatonic scales and quartal voicings. Like Herbie Hancock, Corea also ventured into free jazz and fusion; his group Return to Forever explored new ways of incorporating Latin music into the jazz world. The focus here will be on his post bop style.

### Left-Hand Voicings and Comping

Corea mostly used quartal or open three-note voicings in his left hand. Occasionally he would use standard rootless voicings and fragments. Although he favored the modal approach, his left hand was generally lighter and rhythmically more supple than McCoy Tyner's.



TRACK 65

### Melodic Devices

#### Pentatonic Scales

Chick Corea made much use of pentatonic scales in modal and non-modal contexts. Here he creates a melodic arch by superimposing an F minor pentatonic scale over a B<sup>b</sup> Dorian mode on a B<sup>b</sup>m7 chord.



TRACK 66

#### Four-Note Cells



TRACK 67

Corea derived four-note cells (see Chapter 3) from pentatonic scales. In this excerpt, he plays a simple repetitive figure based on a four-note cell derived from a B<sup>b</sup> or E<sup>b</sup> major pentatonic scale.

Here he derives two different four-note cells from the same C minor pentatonic scale: C–E<sup>b</sup>–F–B<sup>b</sup> and C–E<sup>b</sup>–G–B<sup>b</sup>. Notice the circular repetition of the notes. He follows the two pentatonic cells with a chromatic line that leads to a diatonic Mixolydian segment that resolves the preceding tension.



TRACK 68

cell a

cell b

8va

8va

chromatic

B<sup>b</sup> Mixolydian

C minor pentatonic

In this excerpt he manipulates a non-pentatonic cell with varying rhythms.



TRACK 69

E<sup>maj</sup>7<sup>#11</sup>

4

4

4

G<sup>#7</sup>

## Interior Motives

Corea often constructed longer lines from short interior motives that combined with other interior motives. Interior motives are groupings of usually three or four notes of equal duration that outline a certain interval/shape pattern. They can be played in their original formation, in retrograde (r), or can be sequenced to any pitch. Here he manipulates two different interior motives within two different pentatonic scales.



TRACK 70

F<sup>6</sup><sub>9</sub>

a

a

a(r)

G<sup>b6</sup><sub>9</sub>

G major pent. cell

G<sup>b</sup> major pent.

C7

a

8va

G<sup>b6</sup><sub>9</sub>

b

b(r)

G<sup>b</sup> major pent.

In this excerpt, three different four-note interior motives make up almost the entire segment. Corea adeptly transitions from a dominant diminished (half-whole) scale to a whole-tone scale to a Dorian mode to several different pentatonic cells.



TRACK 71

Annotations for Track 71:

- Staff 1: F7sus4, a, a, a, b, whole-tone
- Staff 2: 8va B $\flat$ 7, c, c, a, G $\flat$ , a(r), F Dorian, G $\flat$  major pent. cell
- Staff 3: Am, 8va, a, A $\flat$ m, b, F7sus4, a, G major pent. cell, C $\flat$  major pent. cell, F major pent.

## Upper Structure Arpeggios

Corea used many arpeggio patterns in his playing. These usually involved upper structures or polychords. Here he superimposes a D $^{\circ}$ 7 arpeggio over an F7 $\sharp$ 9 chord and a C major triad over a B $\flat$ 7 chord. Notice how the left-hand comping articulates the right-hand line.



TRACK 72

Annotations for Track 72:

- Staff 1: 8va F7 $\sharp$ 9, D $^{\circ}$ 7, loco
- Staff 2: B $\flat$ 7, C major pent. cell, C major triad

Several upper structure arpeggios are used in this excerpt.



TRACK 73

Annotations for Track 73:

- Staff 1: Fmaj7, C6, A7, F triad, B $\flat$ maj7, Fm triad, B $\flat$ m7, Fm triad
- Staff 2: D $\flat$ maj7, Fm triad, B $\flat$  Dorian, Dm7

Corea liked to superimpose a consistent repeating triad arpeggio over changing chords. This example shows him playing around with an E major triad arpeggio over four different chords.



TRACK 74

Chords:  $G^{\#}m7^b5$ ,  $C^{\#}7$ ,  $F^{\#}m7$ ,  $D9sus4$

## Motives

Clear-cut motives appear in Corea's playing, and he frequently develops them with varied repetitions. This example shows how he makes gradual changes with each appearance of the motive.



TRACK 75

Chords:  $G^{\#}7$ ,  $A7$ ,  $G^{\#}7$ ,  $A7$ ,  $G^{\#}7$ ,  $A7$ ,  $E^{maj}7^{\#}11$

Here Corea plays the initial idea plus three sequential variations derived from four-note pentatonic cells. This is followed by an upper structure arpeggio and a four-note cell—both derived from an F major pentatonic scale. Notice the repeated figure at the end.



TRACK 76

Chords:  $E^b^{maj}7$ ,  $D^{maj}7$ ,  $G^b^{maj}7$ ,  $F^{maj}7$ ,  $A7$ ,  $B^b^{maj}7$

Scale cells:  $E^b$  major pent. cell, D major pent. cell,  $D^b$  major pent. cell, C major pent. cell, F triad, F major pent. cell

Scale: F major

## Cross Rhythms

Corea often used cross-rhythmic effects in his melodic lines, superimposing triple on duple or quadruple meter, or quadruple on triple meter, etc. In the following excerpt, twos and fours are superimposed against threes, and threes against twos. Notice the use of an E major pentatonic scale throughout the entire passage; this shows Corea's like for maintaining a consistent scale in the right-hand melodies against changing harmonies in the left hand. This excerpt includes subtle variations on the initial statement. Two versions of a two-note motive (a) are coupled to form a larger motive (aa). After a variation on (aa), we overlap another variant of (aa) with a continuation, (al).



TRACK 77

This is a tune and improvisation based on the style of Chick Corea.

## PORTALS



TRACK 78

John Valerio

19 Fm7 E7 Ebm7

25 Em7

31 Bbm7

37 Gm7 Gb7 Fm7 E7 To Coda ⊕ Ebmaj7#11 Gbmaj7#11

43 Cmaj7#11 A7#9 Abmaj7 B7 Em

49 Am7 F#m7b5 8va



53 *Fm7 loco* *Dm7<sup>b5</sup>* *G7*

57 *G<sup>b</sup>maj7* *F7* *Fm7* *E7* *E<sup>b</sup>m7*

62

66 *Em7*

71 *8va* *B<sup>b</sup>m7*

74 *8va* *Gm7* *G<sup>b</sup>7*

79 *loco* Fm7 E7 Ebmaj7#11 Gbmaj7#11 Cmaj7#11

84 A7#9 Abmaj7 B7 Em

89 Am7 F#m7b5

93 Fm7 Dm7b5 G7

97 Gbmaj7 F7 Fm7 E7

101 Ebm7

106 Em7

109

113 Bbm7

117 Gm7   Gbm7   Fm7   E7   D.C. al Coda

161 Coda

## Chapter 9

# KEITH JARRETT

**K**eith Jarrett rose to prominence during the 1960s when he played with Charles Lloyd's quartet. He had a brief stint with Miles Davis in 1970–71, and has since performed solo or with his own groups. Jarrett resurrected the art of jazz solo piano during the 1970s. His original style seems to be a mixture of Bill Evans, bebop, gospel, blues, modal, free jazz, and classical music. His solo performances are usually long, spontaneous improvisations that defy categorization. The trio he formed in 1983 with Gary Peacock on bass and Jack DeJohnette on drums is one of the longest lasting and most remarkable trios in jazz history. With this group, Jarrett brought the *pop standard* back from obscurity. Jarrett's playing style with this trio will be focused on here.

## Melodic Ideas

### Motivic Development and Transformation

Jarrett continually deals with *motivic development* and *transformation*, as did Bill Evans. This example continually spins out material from an initial statement (a). A new idea (b) is tacked on in measure 7, and this motive grows along with the first idea. The asterisk (\*) indicates reference to the main pitches of the theme.



TRACK 79

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in B-flat major. The first staff shows measures 1-4 with chords Cm7, F7, Bbmaj7, and Ebmaj7. The second staff shows measures 5-8 with chords Am7b5, D7, Gm, and Ebmaj7. The third staff shows measures 9-12 with chords Cm7, F7, Bbmaj7, and Ebmaj7. The fourth staff shows measures 13-16 with chords Am7b5, D7, Gm, and Ebmaj7. The notation includes melodic lines with annotations for motivic development (a, a1, a2, a3, a4, a5, a6, a7, b, b1, b2, b3) and thematic reference (\*). The asterisk (\*) indicates reference to the main pitches of the theme.

### Thematic Reference

Keith Jarrett often bases his improvisations on *thematic reference*, the process of constructing melodic lines either directly from or around key notes from the tune's given melody. The lines are then directed by the tune's melody as much as by its harmonic structure. As opposed to *thematic development*, which develops melodic ideas from the tune (theme), thematic reference refers to the theme's structure on a background, abstract level. While other players have engaged in this practice periodically, Jarrett does it on a much more consistent basis.

In the following example, the key (important) pitches from the given melody are indicated on the top staff, and the improvisation is on the bottom staff. Dotted lines show the relationship between the two. Some points are more obvious than others, but anyone who knows this tune cannot help but hear the references.



TRACK 80

Key pitches indicated on the top staff: Fm7, Bbm7, Eb7, Abmaj7, Dbmaj7, G7, Gmaj7, Cm7, Fm7, Bb7, Ebmaj7, Abmaj7, D7, Gmaj7.

### Local Ideas and Sequences

Jarrett often uses local ideas that seem to arise spontaneously. He often plays them with varied repetition and/or sequences. Here are some examples:



TRACK 81

Key pitches indicated on the top staff: C7, Fm.

In this excerpt from the same tune, he repeats his first idea, plays a sequenced variation of it, and then plays an exact sequence of it with two added notes preceding.



TRACK 82

Key pitches indicated on the top staff: C7, Fm.

## Remote Ideas

Jarrett often picks up on ideas that he played previously during a solo. In this example, he picks up on a triplet idea (a) nine measures later. He extends the idea in a triplet line (a1), then plays a stretched-out version (a2) at the end.

Three staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff is in C major, showing a triplet idea labeled 'a'. The second staff is in C7, showing the idea extended into a triplet line labeled 'a1'. The third staff is in Fm, showing a stretched-out version of the idea labeled 'a2'. A speaker icon and 'TRACK 83' are located to the right of the first staff.

## Melodic Devices

### Interior Motives

Jarrett often constructs longer lines from interior motives. Two examples follow.

Two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff shows a sequence of chords: Cm7, F7, Bbmaj7, Ebmaj7, and Am7b5. The second staff shows a sequence of chords: Gm, Am7b5, D7, and Gm. A speaker icon and 'TRACK 84' are located to the right of the first staff.

## Blues

Jarrett often infused his improvisations with blues flavorings. Here blues-like figures are played in an otherwise non-blues setting.

TRACK 85

## Left-Hand Voicings and Comping

Jarrett favors closed and clustered sounds over the open and quartal sound of McCoy Tyner and Chick Corea. He uses standard rootless voicings, but also plays versions of them with roots clustered into the voicing. Sometimes he played triads with added 9ths.

## Comping

Jarrett, at times, can play for long stretches with very little or no left-hand comping, while at other times he can play with a full left-hand compliment. Here is an example of the latter.

TRACK 86

This is a tune and improvisation in the style of Keith Jarrett.

## FORGOTTEN MEMORIES



TRACK 87

John Valerio

Sheet music for the piece "FORGOTTEN MEMORIES" by John Valerio, in the style of Keith Jarrett. The music is written for piano in 4/4 time, featuring a mix of chords and melodic lines across five systems.

**System 1 (Measures 1-3):** Chords: F, Em7<sup>b</sup>5, A7, Dm7, D<sup>b</sup>7, Cm7, B7, B<sup>b</sup>6, A7. The melody features a triplet in measure 1 and a triplet in measure 3.

**System 2 (Measures 4-6):** Chords: Dm7, G7, Gm7, Am7, B<sup>b</sup>maj7, C7sus4, F. The melody continues with a triplet in measure 4 and a triplet in measure 6.

**System 3 (Measures 7-9):** Chords: Em7<sup>b</sup>5, A7, Dm7, D<sup>b</sup>7, Cm7, B7, B<sup>b</sup>6, A7. The melody features a triplet in measure 7 and a triplet in measure 9.

**System 4 (Measures 10-12):** Chords: Dm7, G7, Gm7, Am7, B<sup>b</sup>maj7, C7sus4, Fmaj7. The melody continues with a triplet in measure 10 and a triplet in measure 12.

**System 5 (Measures 13-15):** Chords: Dm6, Em7<sup>b</sup>5, A7, Dm6. The melody features a triplet in measure 13 and a triplet in measure 15.



Em7<sup>b</sup>5    A7    Dm7    G7    Gm7

16

C7    Em7<sup>b</sup>5    A7    Dm7    D<sup>b</sup>7    Cm7    B7

20

B<sup>b</sup>6    A7    Dm7    D<sup>b</sup>7    F/C    C7sus4

23

F/C    C7sus4    F    B<sup>b</sup>/F

26

F    B<sup>b</sup>/F    F    B<sup>b</sup>/F

28

F    B<sup>b</sup>/F    F    B<sup>b</sup>/F

30

32 F B $\flat$ /F *Play 8 times* F B $\flat$ /F

35 Am7 B $\flat$ maj7 F/C C7

37 B $\flat$ maj7 Am7 Gm7 C7 F

# LEAD SHEETS

**A**ll five tunes from Chapters 5–9 are written here in lead sheet form. The reader should play these tunes from the lead sheets after studying and playing through the fully written versions in the previous chapters. Characteristic voicings and improvisation techniques of each featured pianist can be used and employed in various ways. The tunes can be interpreted in various ways and the player need not try to imitate the pianists studied in the book.

## ***Playing Along with the CD Tracks***

CD tracks 88–92 are full band recordings of the five lead sheet tunes. The piano is isolated on the right stereo channel and the rest of the band is on the left stereo channel. The reader may listen to the tracks in stereo and then may play along with the band by turning down the right channel. Practice comping during the heads and sax and bass solos, and improvise during the piano solo sections. The reader may turn down the left channel to isolate the piano on the right in order to focus on the piano's comping and improvisations. A road map for each of the band tracks follows.

### **IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME (BILL EVANS) – TRACK 88**

Head (sax)	1 chorus
Sax solo	2 choruses
Piano solo	2 choruses
Bass Solo	2 choruses
Head (sax)	1 chorus
Ending – hold last chord	

### **DELPHIC DALLIANCE (HERBIE HANCOCK) – TRACK 89**

Head (sax)	1 chorus
Sax solo	2 choruses
Piano solo	2 choruses
Head (sax)	1 chorus
Ending – take coda last time	

### **SOLSTICE (MCCOY TYNER) – TRACK 90**

Head (sax)	2 choruses
Sax solo	4 choruses
Piano solo	4 choruses
Head (sax)	2 choruses
Ending – play last four measures two times	

### **PORTALS (CHICK COREA) – TRACK 91**

Head (sax)	1 chorus
Sax solo	3 choruses
Piano solo	3 choruses
Head (sax)	1 chorus
Ending – proceed to last measure	

### **FORGOTTEN MEMORIES (KEITH JARRETT) – TRACK 92**

Head (sax)	1 chorus
Piano solo	1 chorus
Head (sax)	1 chorus
Ending – play measure 27 twenty-eight times	

# IN SEARCH OF LOST TIME



TRACK 88

MEDIUM JAZZ ♩ = 168

JOHN VALERIO

Handwritten musical score for "In Search of Lost Time" by John Valerio. The score is written in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a tempo of Medium Jazz (♩ = 168). The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score consists of five staves of music, each with handwritten chord notations above the notes.

**Staff 1 (Measures 1-6):**

- Measure 1: A<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 2: B<sup>b</sup>7
- Measure 3: E<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 4: D7
- Measure 5: G<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 6: C<sup>b</sup>M7

**Staff 2 (Measures 7-12):**

- Measure 7: F<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 8: E7
- Measure 9: A<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 10: B<sup>b</sup>7
- Measure 11: E<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 12: D7

**Staff 3 (Measures 13-18):**

- Measure 13: G<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 14: C<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 15: F<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 16: B<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 17: E<sup>b</sup>7
- Measure 18: B<sup>b</sup>7

**Staff 4 (Measures 19-24):**

- Measure 19: A<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 20: D<sup>b</sup>7
- Measure 21: G<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 22: B<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 23: E<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 24: D<sup>b</sup>7

**Staff 5 (Measures 25-30):**

- Measure 25: A<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 26: D<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 27: G<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 28: C<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 29: F<sup>b</sup>M7
- Measure 30: E7

# DELPHIC DALLIANCE



TRACK 89

JOHN VALEZIO

MEDIUM JAZZ ♩ = 154

1 **G<sup>b</sup>MAS7** **B<sup>b</sup>M7** **E<sup>b</sup>7** **E<sup>b</sup>M7** **A7**

7 **B<sup>b</sup>M7** **E<sup>b</sup>7** **A<sup>b</sup>MAS7** **A<sup>b</sup>M7** **D7** **F<sup>b</sup>M7** **B<sup>b</sup>7**

15 **C<sup>b</sup>M7** **C<sup>b</sup>M7/B<sup>b</sup>** **A<sup>b</sup>M7** **D7** **D7/C** **B<sup>b</sup>M7** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E**

19 **F<sup>#</sup>/E** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E<sup>b</sup>** **E<sup>b</sup>7<sup>b</sup>9**

25 **G<sup>b</sup>MAS7/A<sup>b</sup>** **G<sup>b</sup>M7** **F<sup>b</sup>M7**

30 **B<sup>b</sup>7** **TO CODA** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>b</sup>9/E<sup>b</sup>** **D<sup>b</sup>MAS7/E<sup>b</sup>** **A<sup>b</sup>M7<sup>b</sup>5** **D7** **D.C. AL CODA LAST TIME**

**CODA** **REPEAT AND FADE**

35 **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>b</sup>9/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>b</sup>9/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>M7/E<sup>b</sup>** **B<sup>b</sup>7<sup>b</sup>9/E<sup>b</sup>**

# SOLSTICE



TRACK 90

JOHN VALERIO

SWINGING LATIN FEEL ♩ = 138

Chord progression for Solstice:

1. C<sup>M7</sup> F<sup>M7</sup>

7. C<sup>M7</sup> A<sup>b7</sup>6/54 G<sup>7</sup> C<sup>M7</sup>

PLAY LAST 4 MEASURES TWO MORE TIMES FOR ENDING

# PORTALS



TRACK 91

JOHN VALERIO

MEDIUM JAZZ WALTZ ♩ = 176

Chord progression for Portals:

1. E<sup>b</sup>M<sup>A5</sup>7<sup>#11</sup> G<sup>b</sup>M<sup>A5</sup>7<sup>#11</sup> C<sup>M</sup>A57<sup>#11</sup> A7<sup>#9</sup> A<sup>b</sup>M<sup>A5</sup>7 B<sup>7</sup> E<sup>M</sup>

"ONE" FEEL

8. A<sup>M7</sup> F<sup>#</sup>M<sup>7</sup>b<sup>5</sup> F<sup>M7</sup>

15. D<sup>M7</sup>b<sup>5</sup> G<sup>7</sup> G<sup>b</sup>M<sup>A5</sup>7 F<sup>7</sup> F<sup>M7</sup> E<sup>7</sup> E<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup>

"THREE" FEEL

22. E<sup>M7</sup>

29. B<sup>b</sup>M<sup>7</sup>

36. G<sup>M7</sup> G<sup>b</sup>7 F<sup>M7</sup> E<sup>7</sup>

"TWO" FEEL

LAST TIME ONLY

# FORGOTTEN MEMORIES



TRACK 92

JOHN VALEZIO

SLOW, QUASI-SOULFUL FEEL ♩ = 60

1 F EM7b5 A7 DM7 Db7 CM7 B7 Bb6 A7

4 DM7 G7 GM7 AM7 Bbmaj7 C7sus4 Bb/F F GM7/F F EM7b5 A7

8 DM7 Db7 CM7 B7 Bb6 A7 DM7 G7

11 GM7 AM7 Bbmaj7 C7sus4 Bb/F F EM7b5 Eb7 DM6 EM7b5 A7

15 DM6 EM7b5 A7 DM7 G7

19 GM7 AM7 GM7 C7 EM7b5 A7 DM7 Db7 CM7 B7

23 Bb6 A7 DM7 G7 GM7 AM7 Bbmaj7 C7sus4

26 TO CODA LAST TIME CODA

Bb/F F GM7/F F F Bb/F AM7 Bbmaj7 F/C C7 Bbmaj7 AM7 GM7 C7 F

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