

VOICINGS 101

Practice all exercises through circle of fifths
Ear training challenge: sing each voice while playing bass note

1) 3- note voicing using guide tones

Measure A: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7
Measure B: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7

2) Left hand shell voicings in open and closed position

Measure A: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, C6
Measure B: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7
Measure C: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7

3) Basic 7th chords in all inversions over ii-V-I

4) Drop 2 voicing in all inversions

Measure 1: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7
Measure 2: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7
Measure 3: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7
Measure 4: Dm7, G7, Cmaj7

COMPING 101

Swing Eighths

12

The way it's written *The way it's played*

Comping Patterns

A) Charleston

14

B) Reverse Charleston

16

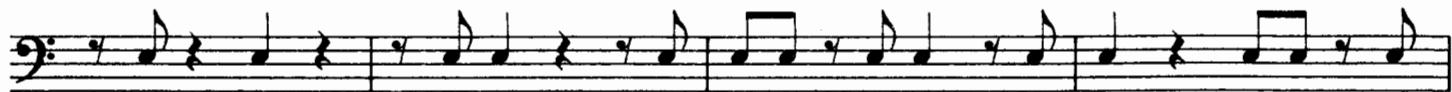
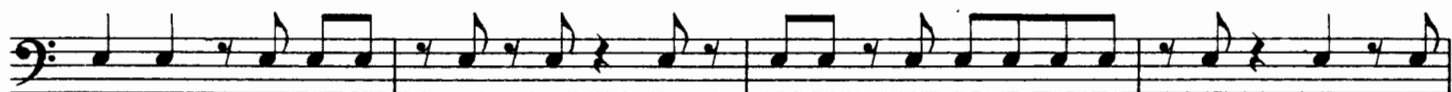
C) Charleston Variation

18

- 1) Speak/clap rhythm while tapping on beats 2 and 4
- 2) Mix and match rhythms to create improvised comping pattern
- 3) Play using any of the preceding voicings

* *Suggested Listening: Red Garland, Oscar Peterson, Wynton Kelly, Horace Silver*

COMPLETE SUMMARY OF PAGES FOUR THROUGH SEVEN



Definitions

Swing: The propulsive quality or “groove” in jazz. Swing refers to both a genre of big band music in the 1930s-1940s and an Afro-diasporic approach to rhythm. In jazz, swing is defined by a triplet-based division of the beat and an emphasis on beats 2 + 4.

Voicings: The distribution of chord tones that provide the harmonic palette and texture. Voicings should clearly articulate the chord changes, have good voice leading, and be appropriate to the given piece or style.

Guide tones: The 3rds and 7ths of a chord. Guide tones outline the chord quality and provide the skeletal foundation for more advanced jazz piano voicings.

Shell voicing: Simple 2-3 note voicings that typically include root + 3rd and/or 7th that provide a solid framework for playing chords in solo piano and trio contexts. They typically include the root + 7th and/or 3rd with smooth voice leading. Unlike rootless voicings, the lower range of shells also allow you to develop right hand lines in the middle of the piano

Comping: The rhythmic placement of chord voicings. Comping is an improvised art form that pianists, guitarists, and drummers use to provide rhythmic and harmonic support for a soloist. Good comping both reacts to and “complements” a soloist while melodizing with the rhythm section as a unit

Charleston: A Black dance form and comping pattern that emphasizes downbeat + the and of 2

Final Thoughts

Students should practice these exercises to achieve a good rhythmic and harmonic foundation. But there is no substitute for listening to the masters and learning about the history of jazz as a Black American art form. This will help develop a coherent jazz vocabulary and inspire you to develop your own sound. Moreover, it will help you understand where the music came from, how it has changed, and how you fit into its deep tradition. Have fun!