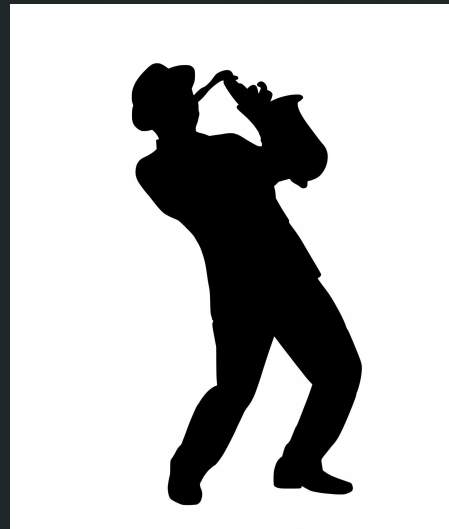


Jazz Improv 101



Techniques to create a decent solo

Improvisation Techniques for a decent solo

- Echo-Able Licks
- High note (show off)
- Up and Down the Scales
- Play “Around” the melody
- Rhythmic Figure on one note
- “Playing the Changes” (chord tones)



Echo-able licks

“Echo-able licks” are:

- short patterns around 4 beats long
- simple enough for someone to “Echo” back.
- Using the 4 four notes of the blues scale will always be successful
- You can use other notes, but safe to hang around the *roots of the chords*
- String these licks back to back



High note (Show off)

- Around $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ the way through your solo, show off by playing a note higher in your register.
- The top of the blues scale is a good bet for that, higher if you can.
- It's good to play up the scale and build up to that note.



Up and down the scales.

- The most simple version of this would be just playing up and down the blues scale.
- Next level would be playing the blues scale related to the root of whatever chord you're on.
- Also other options: Major scales, mixolydian mode, dorian mode off of the root of chords.



Play “Around” the melody

- This is probably the most important component for a “Catchy” and impressive solo.
- Whatever tune you’re playing, play the melody and change up some of the notes.
- Play the rhythm of the melody while messing around with notes
- Play the notes of the melody in a slightly different rhythm



Rhythmic figure on one note

-Playing some more complex rhythmic, accented patterns on one note can be effective too.

-Playing on the root note of the chord is a smart bet for this.

-Be an honorary drummer for a moment.



“Playing the Changes”

- Playing with the notes of the chords listed.
- May take time to figure out the chord symbols (Ex: C7 , Bb7(b9), D#^o, F#7(b13)/C ...)
- Finding “common tones” between chords can create nice navigation through form.
- This is the most difficult level so far

***See “MMS BLUES” chart for introduction to “playing the changes”

