

INTRODUCTION TO BOOK ONE

Every human being has the potential to improvise music! Within you, an infinite stream of music can flow, as endless as an ocean and as individual as a fingerprint. The creative possibilities within even the simplest musical forms are limitless; these infinite possibilities exist at your fingertips, awaiting your discovery! The ability to improvise will open the door to a lifetime of creative fulfillment and artistic expression.

Improvisation has been an integral part of many musical traditions. Many of the great composers in the Western musical tradition were also great improvisers. (Until the 1800's, improvisation was an expected part of any performance.) Indian and other world musical traditions place a great importance on improvisation as a means of emotional and spiritual expression. With the advent of Jazz and Blues, the art of improvisation has once again become a vital force in the Western musical tradition, and musicians worldwide are seeking the tools to help develop their improv potential.

For those of us who have had a traditional background, the emphasis has been on interpreting the works of Beethoven, Bach, etc. Improvisation, on the other hand, is more akin to *being* Beethoven, than it is to playing Beethoven! The **JoyOfImprov** will help you break free because in this approach, the emphasis is placed on the *process* of creation rather than on the attainment of a perfect performance.

Improvisation unifies feeling, hearing and playing as an



expression of your heart, ears and hands. It's the simultaneous action of your spirit, mind and body, energized by inspiration, joy and swing. The source of the music is found *within you*, rather than on the printed page. Improv is about breaking free from pre-composed music, in order to express your own feelings, with your own musical voice. It is the joy of creativity expressed in the spark of the present moment, the

Now!

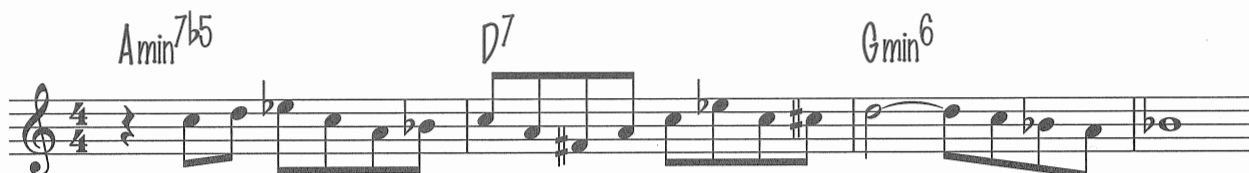
Improvising is a *natural* human impulse in which we tap into our own limitless supply of original music. It is a process which can be learned by anyone, not just those that seem to possess a natural gift for it. While the impulse to improvise is natural, the realization of this ability can be complex. What is needed to address this complexity is a method; an approach which develops the special abilities required to access and express your musical identity. A strong foundation, including ear training, technique and theory is necessary before the freedom to improvise can truly be realized. The first Books of the **JoyOfImprov** are designed to develop this foundation, in order to help you make the transition from the interpretive world of a traditional musician, to the creative world of a *player*.



1.

1. JOI Solo Pattern (transcribe and play in all keys)
2. Jazz Hanon (transpose chromatically and play in 12 keys)
3. Cmaj7 Basic Voicings (transpose to Db, D and Eb)
4. Blues: "Autumn Blues"
5. JOI Line: "Leaf Line"
6. Sing with solo (Louis Armstrong: "Struttin' W/Some Barbecue")

1. JOI Solo Pattern



Chord symbols: Cmin⁷, F⁷, Bbmaj⁷, Ebmaj⁷, Amin⁷^{b5}, D⁷, Gmin⁶, Fmin⁷, Bb⁷, Ebmaj⁷, D⁷_{sus4}, D⁷, Gmin⁶.

"The only thing new under the sun is what you create."—Lennie Tristano¹