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Improvising Jazz (A Fireside Book)



Synopsis

This work offers useful information on how jazz music can be improvised.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Improvising Jazz' gives the beginning performer and the curious listener insights into the art of jazz improvisation. Jerry Coker, teacher and noted jazz saxophonist, explains the major concepts of jazz, including blues, harmony, swing, and the characteristic chord progressions.

I had this book and stupidly gave it away while clearing some shelves. I didn't believe you could learn to improvise from reading a book. I still think that's true, but the book still has lots of useful information. As I'm a computer programmer by trade, I guess I can't just relax and let go and play, but need to have some understanding of the underlying harmonic structure of a song to guide me. So I got this book again on my Kindle. However, on the Kindle, the musical staff and diagrams do not scale with the text and therefore some remain almost impossible to read clearly. Also, there are several examples of diagrams that contain a large bracket and nothing else. I know that there has to be more to them. For that reason, if you get this book I highly recommend that you get it in print and not on your Kindle. I'm ordering this book again. Looking forward to going through some of the musical examples and exercises.

I found this book on the first Whole Earth Catalog and read it when I was just starting as a musician 47 years ago. I remember it as a very formative read, even at a time when I had little technical expertise, and no experience, leaving me with basic principles which I continue to use. Curious to have another look, I ordered a recent copy. On the reread, I see that it is an amazing mix of sophisticated technical information, (useful mostly to a trained musician), but with enough underlying philosophy on improvisation to plant important seeds in the new player. I am not, even now, enough of a technician to use much of detailed examples, since I play but don't read music. For a musician who reads, this book should be a goldmine!

I am and probably always will be a student of jazz. This book and Levine's book are the two best at describing the musical challenges of learning to play and improvise jazz. Coker does a great job of helping the jazz student peel apart chord progressions that seem to be nearly incomprehensible. I will be coming back to this book again and again as I slowly begin to unravel the mystery of playing jazz. Listening and copying your heroes is not enough. You need to learn enough theory to develop your own style. This book can help.

Great book. Thanks

Since the Kindle version was claimed to be optimized for larger screen, I initially downloaded this to the Kindle reader software on my pc. However, the music notation fragments were illegible because they are so small. I tried this file on my Kindle reader and on my iPhone as well, only to discover that the musical examples are of such low quality as to render them useless. Not good for a book on music theory. Perhaps the paper version would have been a better investment. Still, it's sad to see that publisher don't take electronic versions of their books seriously: please don't bother making ebooks if you're going to take the quality seriously.

So much good stuff in this little book...Not a method, not a guide, just some good tips to understand improvisation. Definitely recommend.

excellent!

From the first day my son opened the pages to this book, he has not been able to put it down.

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