IMPROVISATION CLINIC

Basics to Get Started Improvising

AUTUMN LEAVES – JOSEPH KOSMA

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WHEN the SAINTS GO MARCHIN' IN

CENTERPIECE —HARRY “Sweets” EDISON
Find the principle notes of the melody. Some analysis will be helpful. What is the relationship of the primary melody notes to the chords? What key(s)? Improvise lines leading to these notes. The 3rd is a common principle note for melodies. Any vocabulary you can develop here will help you with other tunes.

Here is a simple “improvisation” aiming for the principle pitches.
This short phrase uses scale motion to connect the principle melodic pitches.

Repeated notes can add some rhythmic interest to a simple line.

A chromatic approach and delayed resolution.

Up the scale before descending.

Achromatic approach to the principle notes.

Can you hear or find the simple descending scale passage in this example?

Is this the melody or a jazzy improvisation?
Primary triad pitches from the overtone series

Simple melody using passing tones

Simple melody using diatonic & chromatic passing tones
Swing this one

Jazzy version

Simple melody

Jazzy version

Jazzy version

Jazzy version

Simple triad shape

Jazzy version

Jazzy version

Horn in F

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Basic Triad

With two extra notes = Pentatonic Scale

Pentatonic + ChPT = Major Blues Scale