AUTUMN LEAVES — JOSEPH KOSMA

IMPROVISATION CLINIC
Basics to Get Started Improvising

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WHEN the SAINTS GO MARCHIN' IN

CENTERPIECE—HARRY "Sweets" EDISON
Principle Melodic Note: All things lead to this note

Change the rhythm to fit the style

Adding notes

Similar rhythm, approaching from different direction, same target.

Reduction, but still targets principle note

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 with help you with other tunes.

Here is a simple “improvisation” aiming for the principle pitches.

The primary notes may be connected by a descending scale. Parts of this harmonic progression occurs in almost every jazz standard.

Find vocabulary that connects these primary 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.

A chromatic 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 passing tones

Simple melody using diatonic & chromatic passing tones

Swing this one

Frère Jacques,

Simple melody

Jazzy version

Dormez-vous?

Simple melody

Jazzy version

Three Blind Mice

Simple melody

Jazzy version

See how they run

Simple triad shape

Jazzy version

Simple triad shape

Jazzy version

N B C
Basic Triad

With two extra notes = Pentatonic Scale

Pentatonic + ChPT = Major Blues Scale