

# Beginner's Guide to Improvisation

## Lesson 8

You now know how to sing or play guide tones, chord tones, licks in different keys and all the chord progressions that you need to know to improvise over most of the best loved jazz standards.

Time to put it all together!

In this lesson, the aim is to get creative with one of western music's most uplifting songs - Pennies From Heaven. Have a look at the music - you'll see that every chord progression has been covered with our basic lick from earlier lessons. Here's how to get the ball rolling with your new skill!

### EXERCISE:

- Ask your tutor to play the chord progression to "Pennies From Heaven", found at the bottom of this exercise sheet.
- Sing or play the chord tone progression written on the stave - hear how it fits perfectly with the harmony?
- Have a go at replacing the basic lick with one of your own. Can you transpose it so it fits over the three-six chord progression and the two-five to chord four? Your tutor can help you with this.

### NOW, IMPROVISE!

- Once you are comfortable with singing or playing your own licks over the chord progression, have a go at improvising using guide tone lines.
- Nailing the guide tone lines? Have a go at improvising using chord tones.
- Lastly, forget everything that you have learned and just have fun; Improvise using only your ears. Get creative and enjoy the ride - you'll find that your ears, fingers and vocal cords are more equipped than you think!

If you've enjoyed this short beginner's guide to improvisation and want to venture deeper into the world of jazz and improvisation, ask us about one to one lessons with our jazz experts - you'll be swinging in no time!

# Pennies From Heaven

Medium Swing ♩ = 130

Music by Arthur Johnson

Lyrics by Johnny Burke

The musical score for "Pennies From Heaven" is written in 4/4 time with a medium swing feel. The tempo is marked as 130 beats per minute. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score is divided into eight staves, each containing a line of music with corresponding chord changes indicated above the notes.

**Staff 1:** Cmaj7, Fmaj7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7

**Staff 2:** 5 Cmaj7, Fmaj7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7

**Staff 3:** 9 Gm7, C7, Fmaj7

**Staff 4:** 13 D7, Dm7, G7

**Staff 5:** 17 Cmaj7, Fmaj7, Em7, A7, Dm7, G7

**Staff 6:** 21 Gm7, C7, Fmaj7

**Staff 7:** 25 Fmaj7, Fm7, Em7, A7

**Staff 8:** 29 Dm7, G7, Cmaj7, Dm7, G7