

## **JAZZ STUDY**

### **Key elements of jazz performance:**

Improvisation and time feel / phrasing. (Can't be notated).

### **3 essential components of study:**

- 1) **Listen to jazz.** Straight ahead feel, different historic periods
- 2) **Learn some basic theory** - components of chords and notes that work with them.
- 3) **Play!** with other musicians, play-alongs and with your favorite jazz recordings.

**Download iRealpro app.** It's a play-along app in which you can download hundreds of sets of chord changes, play at any tempo or key and adjust multiple parameters including mix levels and muting tracks such as muting piano, bass or drums if you are a rhythm section player. There are no melodies included in the app for copyright reasons so you will need a book of tunes such as the Real Book.

Take your time. Realize that studying jazz will help your overall playing, enhance your musical creativity and give you more freedom moving about on your instrument. Practicing will be more varied, interesting and fun.

Set your aspirations as high as you like but remember you don't have to be a world class jazz star to play very nice jazz music for happy listeners. Studying jazz will make you a better musician and communicator.

**Chick Corea** once told my daughter - after she had asked him for advice on improvisation, "Just play what sounds good to you."

Have fun! Allen Vizzutti

# JAZZ STUDY

Allen Vizzutti

Learn the modes (2 of which are major and minor).

**I Drink Pepsi Leave Me Alone** - The order of the modes. Notice the modes in that order can be defined by playing white note piano scales starting on C (Major) - then D (Dorian) - then E (Phrygian)- then F (Lydian) etc.

Ionian Major      Major chords but Lydian better

Dorian #6 in minor      Use on minor chords

Phrygian b2 in minor      Use on flat 9 chords / a strong dominant sound pulling to tonic.  
b9 often added to plain 7th chord without notated alteration

Lydian #4 in Major      Great on Major 7 chords especially / #4 adds very hip color

Mixolydian b7 in Major      Use on dominant 7 chords

Aolian minor      Use on minor chords - Dorian (#6) usually better.

Locrian b2 and b5 in minor      b5 / b7 chords common in jazz)

Learn whole step / half step scales and the reverse.

Common to cover altered chords / chords with lots of altered / extra notes.

## Basic Chord tones

**C triad**      **C mi triad**      **C7**      **Cmi7**

**Cmi7b5 (Half diminished)**      **C dim /Maj7**      **Cmaj7**

**C7sus4 (avoid the 3rd)**      **C9**      **C7b9**      **CMaj7#5**

**C7 or Cmi7**      **CMaj**

**Pianists** - Start with this sure-fire left hand voicing - Root - 5th (optional) and 7th.

Try not to use root position often. Remember the bass player will cover the bass notes.

Think orchestrationally in textures. Don't try to play too busily.

**Instrumentalists** - phrase endings are more interesting if they don't always begin & end on tonic.

The **basic idea** is to use scales that contain the chord notes  
and to interact with the other musicians