

INDEX

Page 4 Chord progression for “**Basic Major Blues**” [Example 1](#)

D7 /G7 /D7 /D7/G7 /G7 /D7 /D7 /A7 /G7 /D7 /A7 /

Page 8 Chord progression for “**Basic Minor Blues**” [Example 2](#)

Dm7 /Gm7 /Dm7 /Dm7 /Gm7 /Gm7 /Dm7 /Dm7 /Bb13 /A7#5 /Dm7 /A7#5 /

Page 12 Chord progression for “**Watermelon Man**” [Example 3](#)

F7 /F7 /F7 /F7 /Bb7 /Bb7 /F7 /F7 /C7 /Bb7 /C7 /Bb7 /C7 /Bb7 /F7 /F7 /

Page 17 Chord progression for “**Blues for JK**” [Example 4](#)

C7 /F7 /C7 /Gm7 C7 /F7 /F7 /C7 /C7 /G7 /F7 /C7 A7 /D7 G7 /

Page 21 Chord progression for “**Bags Groove**” [Example 5](#)

F7 /Bb7 /F7 /F7 /Bb7 /Bb7 /F7 /Am7 D7 /Gm7 /C7 /F7 D7 /Gm7 C7 /

Page 25 Chord progression for “**Blue Trane**” [Example 6](#)

Cm7/Dm7b5/G7#5/Cm7/Gm7b5C7#5/Fm7/Fm7/Cm7/Cm7/Ab7/G7#5/Cm7/Ab7G7#5/

Page 29 Chord progression for “**Route 66**” [Example 7](#)

G9 /C9 /G9 /Dm7 G9 /C9 C#dim /G6 E7 /Am7 D7 /G7 E7 /Am7 D7 /

Page 33 Chord progression for “**Blue Monk**” [Example 8](#)

Bb7 /Eb7 /Bb7 /Bb7 /Eb7 /Edim7 /Bb7 /Bb7 /F7 /F7 /Bb7 /F7 /

Page 37 Chord progression for “**Funky Blues Groove**” [Example 9](#)

D9 /G13 /D9 /D9 /G13 /G13 /D9 /D9 /A9 /G9 /D9 /A9 /

Page 42 Chord progression for “**Tenor Madness**” [Example 10](#)

F9/Bb9 /F9/F9 /Bb9 /Bb9 /F9 /Bb9 /Am7/D7 /Gm7 C7 /Gm7 C7 /F9 D7b9 /Gm7 C13/

About This Book

Thank you for buying this book and I hope that it gives you the tools to quickly develop your improvisational skills.

This book was inspired by the music students whom I teach at Shepherd University in Los Angeles and is dedicated to those students: Jungwon, Yumiko, Yoko, Eunice, Sooji, Hae Ji and Ok Kyu. A special thanks to Jungwon for giving me feedback, from a student's perspective, concerning the development of the book.

As with many students that come from a classical background (including myself) it is a difficult transition to learn to play Blues & Jazz. Generally, a good place to start to develop students improvisational techniques is to introduce them to playing the Blues which includes learning the Blues scale and the 12 Bar Blues progression. Once they have a general understanding of these two concepts I would then try to have them play phrases based on the Blues scale while playing the I, IV and the V chords of the basic 12 Bar Blues progression as well as using popular Blues flute books that I have authored such as "100 Ultimate Blues Riffs for Flute" both the beginner/intermediate and intermediate/advanced series. By using these techniques the students have developed a vocabulary of phrases that they can play, however, I also feel that there may be a different way of developing their improvisational skills.

When a musician improvises they usually play a variety of riffs or phrases which they have developed and learnt over a period of time and can access these phrases instantaneously whatever key they are playing in to create a seamless improvised solo from the phrases they have learnt.

My idea for this book is to create two measure phrases or riffs within the context of various Blues and Jazz/Blues chord progressions. I have sub-divided each of the 12 Bar Blues progressions used in this book (the chord progression for Watermelon Man is a 16 measure progression) into six sections (two measures each) and within each of the six sections created four different phrases or riffs so that the student has a choice of which one to play over each two measures. They can then create a solo based on which phrase they choose for each two measures. By breaking down these phrases into two measures each, I have found that the students have an easier time of learning to improvise than by trying to transcribe a whole solo from an audio recording or leaving them to their own devices in trying to play a solo based on the Blues scale or other related scales.

Each of the ten examples are based on common Jazz/Blues chord progressions starting off with the basic I-IV-V chords and increasing in complexity throughout the book as shown in the index.

CD track 1

Swing Rhythm

♩ = 95

Riffs over the I to IV chords

Basic Major Blues

Solo Riffs

Arranged by
Andrew D. Gordon

D7 G7 D7 G7

Riff 1 Riff 2

D7 G7 D7 G7

Riff 3 Riff 4

Riffs over the I chord

D7

Riff 5 Riff 6

D7 D7

Riff 7 Riff 8

Riffs over the IV chord

G7

Riff 9 Riff 10

G7 G7

Riff 11 Riff 12