

Lesson plan – 5. Middle 8

Lesson objectives	Middle 8
Activity A	Practice targeting any chord note. In my example I have created a linear melodic line rising then descending. Try to think of it as a new melody! Always trying to hear those notes! Notice we are only targeting beat 1. Forget about the chord on for beats 3 & 4.
Activity B	A simple exercise creating a very simple line using the target notes in activity A. You REALLY have to be able to hear them. If you only practice activity A for a whole day, you'll soon start to hear them. If you can't hear them, keep playing (and singing) the exercise until you can!
Activity C	Pentatonic scale of the middle 8 key. Bb pitch = C major Concert & bass clef = Bb pitch Eb pitch = G major Run up and down the pentatonic scale until you are very familiar with it!
Activity D	Try to create very simple melodies only using the scale.

How to make great progress!

It's all about hearing where you want to go.

The forward motion of targeting your next note.

If you can learn to hear a chord note (I favour the 3rds) your solos will sound very melodic.

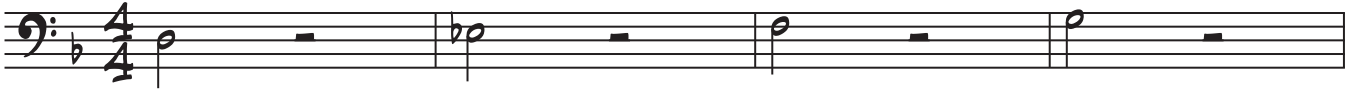
So, my 3 approaches to a middle 8 like this (with lots of changes).

1. Target a chord note only on beat 1, don't really think about the other chords.
2. Try to use the pentatonic scale for your improvisation. I find this works okay for a chorus but it will soon sound repetitive if that's all you do!
3. Of course you can just target all the chord notes as we have been too!

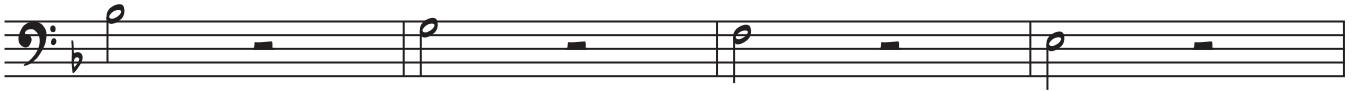
BERNIE'S TUNE - LESSON 5

BASS CLEF

A B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7



B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$



B B^{b6} C^{MIN7} B^{b6} C^{MIN7}



B^{b6} C^{MIN7} B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$



C PENTATONIC SCALE



D B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7



B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$



BERNIE'S TUNE - LESSON 5

B FLAT

A C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷ C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷

C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷ C⁶ F#^{MIN}7(b5) B^{7(b9)}

B C⁶ D^{MIN}7 C⁶ D^{MIN}7

C⁶ D^{MIN}7 C⁶ F#^{MIN}7(b5) B^{7(b9)}

C PENTATONIC SCALE

D C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷ C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷

C⁶ A^{MIN}7 D^{MIN}7 G⁷ C⁶ F#^{MIN}7(b5) B^{7(b9)}

BERNIE'S TUNE - LESSON 5

C

A B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7

B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$

B B^{b6} C^{MIN7} B^{b6} C^{MIN7}

B^{b6} C^{MIN7} B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$

C PENTATONIC SCALE

D B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7

B^{b6} G^{MIN7} C^{MIN7} F^7 B^{b6} $E^{MIN7(b5)}$ $A^{7(b9)}$

BERNIE'S TUNE - LESSON 5

E FLAT

A G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7 G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7

G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7 G^b $C^{\#}_{MIN}{}^7(b5)$ $F^{\#}{}^7(b9)$

B G^b A_{MIN}^7 G^b A_{MIN}^7

G^b A_{MIN}^7 G^b $C^{\#}_{MIN}{}^7(b5)$ $F^{\#}{}^7(b9)$

C PENTATONIC SCALE

D G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7 G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7

G^b E_{MIN}^7 A_{MIN}^7 D^7 G^b $C^{\#}_{MIN}{}^7(b5)$ $F^{\#}{}^7(b9)$