

# SCALES FOR YARDBIRD SUITE IMPROVISATION

THE YARDBIRD SUITE IS A STANDARD WRITTEN BY CHARLIE PARKER - ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT INNOVATORS IN MODERN MUSIC. A COLLECTION OF HIS MUSIC IS CONSIDERED TO BE ESSENTIAL PLAYING MATERIAL FOR ALL JAZZ INSTRUMENTALISTS. A VERSION OF THE "CHARLIE PARKER OMNIBOOK" IS AVAILABLE FOR MOST INSTRUMENTS

THE PART OF THE YARDBIRD SUITE WE ARE GOING TO USE AS AN IMPROVISATION SECTION IN THE MICHAEL SWEENEY BIG BAND ARRANGEMENT STARTS AT BAR 85  
THE CHORD SEQUENCE IS SHOWN BELOW ...

Chord sequence for bars 85-90:

Bar 85: Bm7, F#7, Bm7, E7

Bar 86: Am7, E7, A7, Am7, D+7

The image shows two staves of musical notation in 4/4 time. The first staff contains four measures with chords Bm7, F#7, Bm7, and E7. The second staff contains five measures with chords Am7, E7, A7, Am7, and D+7.

THERE ARE ALWAYS SEVERAL APPROACHES TO CREATING AN IMPROVISATION IN A SOLO SECTION. OFTEN, IMPROVISORS WILL GROUP SOME CHORDS TOGETHER AND PLAY THE SAME SCALE OVER TWO OR MORE CHORDS.

WE'LL USE THE B MELODIC MINOR OVER THE FIRST TWO CHORDS.....

Scale example for Bm7 and F#7:

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in 4/4 time. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale is B melodic minor: B2, C#3, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4. The first two measures are over Bm7 and the next two are over F#7.

THE B DORIAN WILL SOUND OK OVER THE NEXT TWO CHORDS....

Scale example for Bm7 and E7:

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in 4/4 time. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale is B Dorian: B2, C#3, D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4. The first two measures are over Bm7 and the next two are over E7.

THE A MELODIC MINOR (ASCENDING) WILL WORK OVER THE NEXT TWO CHORDS  
THIS IS JUST A MAJOR SCALE WITH A FLATTENED THIRD

Scale example for Am7 and E7:

The image shows a single staff of musical notation in 4/4 time. It starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The scale is A melodic minor: A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3, A3. The first two measures are over Am7 and the next two are over E7.

BARI. SAX.  
YARDBIRD SUITE SOLO HELPER

FOR THE C7 CHORD, USE THE BEBOP SCALE  
(JUST A MAJOR SCALE WITH AN ADDED FLAT 7TH)

FOR THE CM7 AND F+7 CHORDS, USE ARPEGGIOS  
(THE "+" MEANS A RAISED 5TH - AUGMENTED)

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A7 AM7 D+7

HERE'S AN EXAMPLE SOLO USING THE NOTES RECOMMENDED ABOVE.

1

Bm7 F#7 Bm7 E7

Am7 E7

A7 Am7 D+7 G