

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 ...

Dm⁷
A⁷
Dm⁷
G⁷

5 Cm⁷
G⁷
C⁷
Cm⁷
F+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.....

1 Dm⁷ A⁷

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

3 Dm⁷ G⁷

BASS GUITAR
YARDBIRD SUITE SOLO HELPER

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

1 Cm^7 G^7

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

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

3 C^7 Cm^7 $F+^7$

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

1 Dm^7 A^7 Dm^7 G^7

5 Cm^7 G^7

7 C^7 Cm^7 $F+^7$ Bb