

SCALES FOR YARDBIRD SUITE IMPROVISATION

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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

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

1 Cm7 G7

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)

3 C7 Cm7 F+7

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

1 Dm7 A7 Dm7 G7

5 Cm7 G7

7 C7 Cm7 F+7 (Bb)