

But Not For Me - Session 1 (Eb)

This session focuses on the 1st 8 bars of the piece, which are repeated from bar 17 - 24, making up half of the 32 bar form. Rather than learning an entire melody, and then an entire chord sequence, it can be helpful to learn both the melody and harmony for small sections of a piece.

Below is the opening phrase (4 bars) of melody, with the harmony shown on the staff below:

Musical notation for the first 4 bars of the opening phrase. The top staff shows the melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff shows the chord progression: A-7, D7, G^A, C^A, B^ø, and E7.

Below is the opening phrase (4 bars) of melody, with the harmony shown on the staff below:

Musical notation for the second 4 bars of the opening phrase, starting at bar 6. The top staff shows the melody in treble clef, 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff shows the chord progression: A-7, D7, G^A, and G7.

Although interpretations of this melody vary widely, the 3/8 cross rhythm in bar 2 and 6 is often a feature. This is a great device for building rhythmic tension while improvising, and can be very effective when applied with just a few notes. The example below shows the rhythm applied to each chord just using 2 notes.

Musical notation showing the 3/8 cross rhythm applied to the chords from the first two 4-bar phrases. The top staff shows bars 11-14 with chords A-7, D7, G^A, C^A, B^ø, and E7. The bottom staff shows bars 15-18 with chords A-7, D7, G^A, and G7.

Finally, to help build fluency, particularly over the bars 3 and 4 where the chords move twice as fast, I suggest some arpeggio exercises. The 1st one is shown below (ascending 1, 3, 5, 7). Once you are comfortable with this it's great practice to play the exercise with descending arpeggios, and starting from various degrees. I have shown the chords as roman numerals here.

Musical notation for arpeggio exercises. The top staff shows bars 19-22 with chords II-, V7, I^A, IV^A, III^ø, and VI7. The bottom staff shows bars 23-26 with chords II-, V7, I^A, and I7.