

Days Of Wine & Roses - Session 1(Bb)

These sessions focus on the opening four bars of the song, with detailed look at the harmony and chord-scale relationships.

Below is the melody and chord symbols.

Musical notation showing the opening four bars of the song. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The first bar has a double bar line. The second bar has a whole note G4. The third bar has a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The fourth bar has a whole note G4. Chord symbols G Δ , F7 \sharp 11, B-, and E7 \sharp 9 are placed above the staff.

The four lines below show the chords and there corresponding modes, along with the parent scale of each mode. These modes are not the only options for these chords, but they are a good starting point for outlining the harmony clearly in your improvisation.

6 G Δ Mode: G Ionian - Parent Scale: G Major

7 F7 \sharp 11 Mode: F \flat Lydian Dominant - Parent Scale: C Melodic Minor

8 B- Mode: B Phrygian - Parent Scale: G Major

9 E7 \flat 9 \flat 13 Mode: E Mixolydian Flat 9 Flat 13 - Parent Scale: A Harmonic Minor

Practice ideas:

It's interesting to notice that while the harmony moves quickly, and quite dramatically in these four bars, the melody is entirely diatonic.

Try improvising through the sequence looking for common notes between scales/chords where ever possible - emphasizing the common tones and creating a sense of continuity between the contrasting chords.

In direct contrast to the task above, try the opposite, emphasizing only the notes which change between each chord. This should have a noticeably different effect on your line, with a greater sense of tension and release.

Finally, looping the four bars, try switching between the two approaches described above - testing your ability to control the level of tension in your improvisation.