

September In The Rain - Session 1 (Bb)

Session 1 focuses on the A section of the piece. The song follows a typical AABA form. The melody is notated below. Note that I have opted for the most simple rhythmic notation as a starting point - learning a melody in this way gives us the most freedom when we come to our personal interpretation of it.

The first staff of music starts with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (Bb), and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a whole rest, followed by a repeat sign. The melody consists of quarter notes: Bb, C, D, Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb. The second staff starts at measure 6 and continues the melody with quarter notes: C, D, Eb, F, G, Ab, Bb, C, followed by a double bar line.

Once this is internalised, it's useful to practice improvising without deviating from the melodic material, but altering the rhythm. Repeating notes or small sections of a phrase can have a great impact, as well as delaying and/or anticipating phrases. An example is notated below:

The third staff starts at measure 10 and shows rhythmic variations. It includes eighth notes, quarter notes, and quarter rests. The fourth staff starts at measure 14 and continues with similar rhythmic patterns, including eighth notes and quarter notes.

The harmony in this section is typical of the functional movement found in Jazz standard compositions of this era. One helpful way to think of it is a collection of common cadences or movements. In the order in which they appear, they are: (Imaj IVmaj III- VI7), (II- IV-) and (III- VI7 II- V7). The staves below show the melody with chord symbols above. I recommend practicing the root movement along side the melody, keeping track of where the changes come in relation to the tune.

The fifth staff starts at measure 18 and has chord symbols above the notes: F^Δ, Bb^Δ, A-, D7, G-. The sixth staff starts at measure 23 and has chord symbols: Bb-^Δ, A-, D7, G-, C7. The notation shows the melody with these chords indicated above the staff.