

Summer Time - Session 1 (Bb)

Below is a simple interpretation of the melody. Note that because of the huge number of interpretations, and also multiple verses with different lyrics, there is no unified version of the exact melody. For this reason it's useful to study this rough outline of the tune.

After learning the melody as shown above, we can begin to practice our own interpretations of it. Considering the way the different lyrics impact on repeated or additional notes in order to accommodate more (or less) syllables is a good start. I suggest focusing on creating tension by delaying and anticipating particular notes and/or phrases, changing only the rhythm, before going on to add decorative notes.

Below is an arpeggio exercise designed to help memorise the chord changes. It's useful for this as each bar (or half bar) starts on the root note. This should also help build some fluid arpeggio runs into our improvisation. You can try the same exercise, but start each bar on the 3rd, 5th, or 7th degree rather than the root. Note that most people find the exercise much harder when descending through the arpeggios, so that is a particularly good variation to practice.