

Take The A Train - Session 2 (Bb)

Session 2 explores ways to develop improvising language to be used with the two sounds identified in Session 1 - I major 7 and II7 #11. I suggest familiarising ourselves both with the arpeggios and scales for both sounds. This can be practiced as shown below:

Arpeggios Ascending

Musical notation for Arpeggios Ascending exercise, measures 1-4. Chords D and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Arpeggios Descending

Musical notation for Arpeggios Descending exercise, measures 5-8. Chords D and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Scales Ascending

Musical notation for Scales Ascending exercise, measures 9-12. Chords D and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Scales Descending

Musical notation for Scales Descending exercise, measures 13-16. Chords D and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

As with any practice which focusses on switching between two or more different modes/sounds/scales/arpeggios/chords, the area of most interest is the first note of the new sound, or the 'join' between them. Experimenting with continuous scale and arpeggio exercises, starting in different places is a thorough way to explore the different points at which the scales meet. You will notice that if the first note of the new sound is a note shared in both sounds, the transition is subtle. If however the first note of the new sound is a note which belongs only to the new sound, this emphasizes the change, creating a more dramatic moment in the melodic line. Both these approaches are equally valid, by practicing both we are developing the freedom to choose which effect we want to create.

Continuous arpeggio exercise - subtle change:

Musical notation for Continuous arpeggio exercise - subtle change, measures 17-20. Chords D^A and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Continuous arpeggio exercise - dramatic change:

Musical notation for Continuous arpeggio exercise - dramatic change, measures 21-24. Chords D^A and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Continuous scale exercise - subtle change:

Musical notation for Continuous scale exercise - subtle change, measures 25-28. Chords D^A and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.

Continuous scale exercise - subtle change:

Musical notation for Continuous scale exercise - subtle change, measures 29-32. Chords D^A and E7#11 are indicated above the staff.