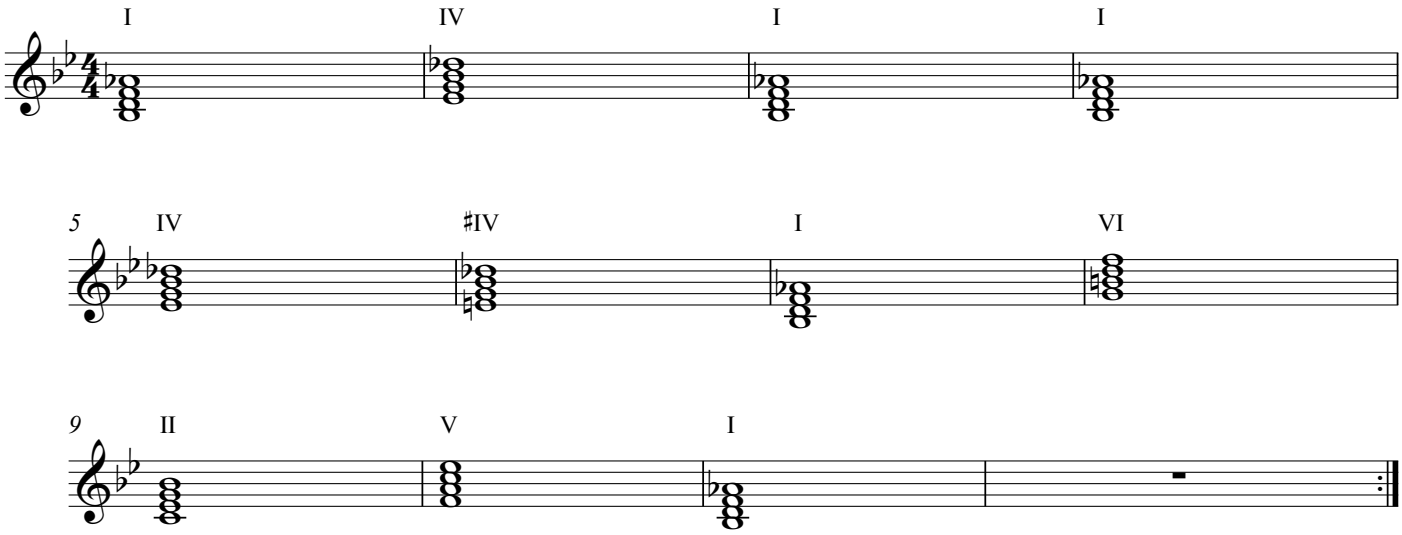
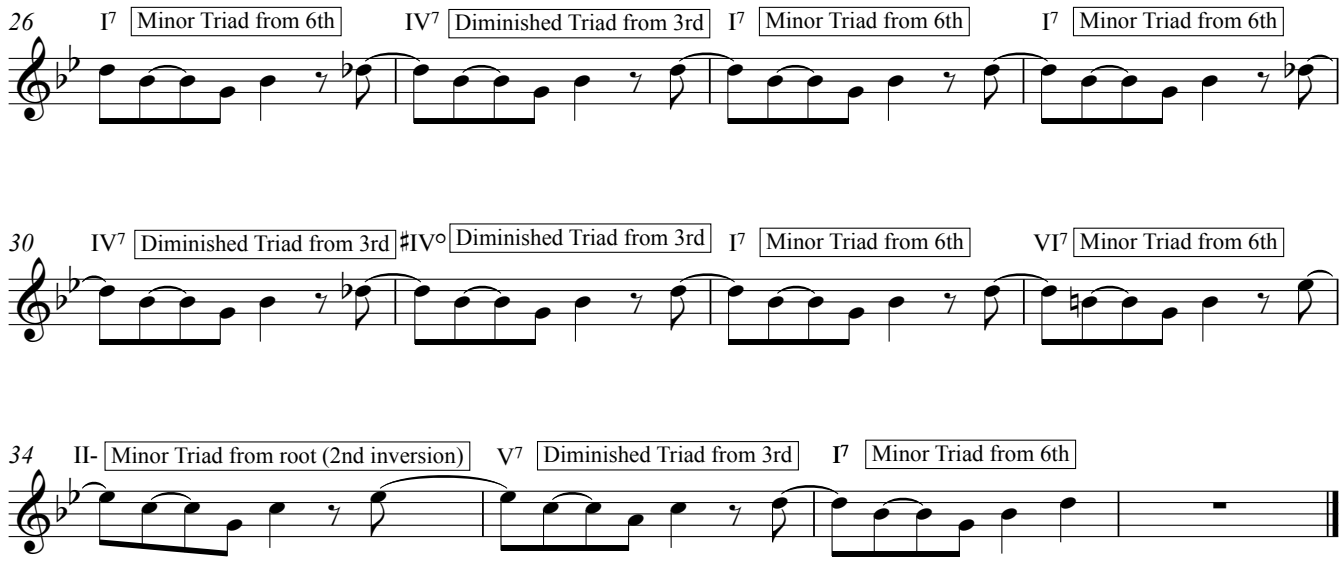
Tenor Madness - Session 2 (Concert)

Session 2 is made contains several exercises which build on the information set out in session 1. Firstly, it's important to extend the previous exercise of root note practice through to the full 4 note arpegio on each chord. The root, 3rd, 5th and 7th are shown as a chord in each bar here: Practice playing the 3rd only, then the 5th only and then the 7th only in each bar, before going on to pick combinations, such as the 3rd and 7th, or root and 5th.



To develop this exercise further as a group, we can apply the rhythmic figures which we practiced in session 1 (derived from the melody) to the chord tones shown above. The example below shows 2 players applying the 3rds and 7ths to the top line of the rhythmic figure, while 2 players apply the root and 5th to the low line of the figure.

Still using the rhythmic fig, we can now apply it to the triads which we assigned to each chord. This time, starting at the highest pitch, descending 2 steps and then ascending for the final note, as shown below. This now gives a very strong indication of the melody.



As well as laying the melodic and rhythmic foundations for the melody, this exercise should allow us to improvise more freely using the triads described in the boxes.