

Life After 6: What Now???

What to do with Improvisation
After Introducing Azzara's Seven
Skills



Skill Learning Sequence

Discrimination learning

(Acculturation)

Aural/Oral

Device based patterns
Songs using device

Verbal association

Name the device/identify

Symbolic association

Analysis, this is what the device looks like notated
Identify device in songs/notation

Inference learning

Generalization #Goals

Audiate unfamiliar patterns

Creativity and improvisation

Theoretical Understanding

Analysis at this stage

Codify what you've learned

Compare and mix with other devices

Expected Prior Experience

Basic Skills

Duple Rhythmic Patterns

Tonic and Dominant Patterns

Collection of I-V Tunes

Specific Tonic and Dominant patterns extracted from tunes

Basic composing (chord tone songs) using Tonic and Dominant

Lightly Row Specific Skills

Melodic Patterns

Sing/Play Melody from memory with signals

Play in 4-6 keys

Improvise (7 Skills)

Compose a contrafact (Chord Tone Song)

Review of the Seven Skills

1. Improvise rhythm patterns on the bass line
2. Understand the essential voice leading of the tune
3. Using the pitches in Skill #2, learn the harmonic rhythm
4. Improvise rhythm patterns to the harmonic progression using the pitches learned in Skill #2 (Voice Leading or Resolutions).
5. Improvise tonal patterns to the harmonic progression; Sing and play patterns that outline the chord changes.
6. Combine tonal and rhythm patterns in the progression and improvise your own melody.
7. Decorate and embellish the melodic material in Skill #6 and improvise a melody.

Improvisation in the Wild



Navigating the Changes

Keeping track

Awareness that they are on a mission to build a musical vocab

Know where/how to find source material for more vocab (tunes, rhythm books/packages, sight singing, fiddle tunes, Musescore/Hook Theory)

Journal of Patterns

Pitfalls

Vocabulary: on its own does not equal meaningful improvisation

Stuck on licks: Rearranging patterns or “licks” does not demonstrate a complete musical understanding

Stuck on embellishing the melody or playing the same thing on every tune

Some Devices for Improvisation and Composition

Melodic Devices

Main Themes
Variation on a Theme
Passing Tones
Neighboring Tones
Escape Tones
Appoggiatura
Arpeggios
Scale Line
Sequences
Suspension
Retardation
Anticipation
Pedal Point
Approach Notes
Quotes
Retrograde/Inversion

Rhythmic Devices

Rests
Pickup Notes
Tuplets
Double time
Syncopation
Rhythmic Augmentation
Rhythmic Diminution
Offset rhythms
Phrase Length
Hemiolas
Implying a different subdivision
Polyrhythms

Articulation and Dynamics

Staccato
Legato

Trills

Turns
Accents
Loud/Soft
Contour Dynamics
Slides/Glissandos

Harmonic Devices

Passing Chords
Neighbor Chords
7th chords
Secondary Dominants
Relative and Parallel
Major/Minor
Diatonic Substitutions
Tritone Substitutions
Upper Extensions

Lightly Row Improvisation Resources

[Hot-Cross-Buns_7-skills-i-v-in-g.pdf](#)

[Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

[Composition_Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

[Improv_Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

[Examples-of-non-harmonic-tones-.pdf](#)

[Prep-for-passing-tones.pdf](#)

[Passing-Tones-Lightly_Row.pdf](#) [Neighboring-Tones-Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

[Escape-tone_1_analysis_step-leap -lightly_row.pdf](#)

[Escape-tone-2_analysis_leap-step-lightly_row.pdf](#)

[Escape-tone_improv_lightly_row.pdf](#) [Appoggiatura_Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

[Custom-Device_lightly_row.pdf](#) [DeviceTemplate-Lightly_Row.pdf](#)

Don't Limit to Melodic Devices

Rehearsal Activities

Dissect a Band/Orchestra/Choir Piece

Create improvisation exercises using:

Melodic devices such as main themes, non-harmonic tones, sequences, scales, leaps, chromaticism, blues scale

Rhythmic devices such as pickup notes, anticipations, triplets, hemiolas

Harmonic devices such as minor IV chords, secondary dominants, substitute chords, cadences, primary chords of the modes, turnarounds

Expressive devices including articulations, dynamics, trills, glissandos, slides