

"Prisoner Of Love" (ballad)

These solos were written in 1978. After a few, less than stellar attempts, at a single line solo, Tony Bradan commented that there may be too many notes. With a smile, he suggested that rather than playing "Tico-Tico", I should play "Prisoner of Love." Here is a excerpt from one of my early attempts. This style continued throughout my whole arrangement. The accompaniment was to be in a "samba" style. (counted in a fast 8/8 feel)

Chords for the first two staves:
 Staff 1: Gm7, C7, F, D7
 Staff 2: Gm7, C7, F, Dm7, Gm7, C7

After contemplating the problem for a moment, Tony suggested that I should try to write a solo with less notes and also one that reflected my style. In turn, he would also write a solo and we would compare "notes" during the next lesson. This was the result. (Also worth noting is that neither Tony or I played our solos as squarely as they were written. The straight eighth note passages usually contained some mild syncopation with a blues feel.)

Medium Slow Ballad Style "Tony Bradan's" solo example (perhaps better if played 8va)

Chords for the seven staves:
 Staff 1: Gm7, C7, F, D7, (Abm)
 Staff 2: Gm7, C7, F, Dm7, Gm7, C7
 Staff 3: Gm7, C7, F, D7, (Abm)
 Staff 4: Gm7, C7, F, Eb7, F, E7
 Staff 5: Am, E7, Am, E7, Am, E7, Am, E7
 Staff 6: A, E7, A, E7, A, E7, A, C7
 Staff 7: (Chords continue with various notes)

(Tony wrote the first 8 bars with a repeat sign.)

Gm7 C7 F D7

Gm7 C7 F Eb9 F

Also in a moderate ballad style "George Arvola's" solo with less notes (possibly better if played 8va)

Gm7 C7 F D7

Gm7 C7 F Dm Gm7 C7

Gm7 C7 F D7

Gm7 C7 F Eb9 F E7

Am E7 Am E7 Am E7 Am E7

A E7 A E7 A E7 A C7

Gm7 C7 F D7

Gm7 C7 F Eb7 F

When we reviewed each other's solos, I mentioned that Tony's solo contained very little syncopation across the bar lines. His answer was: "You don't have to incorporate everything you know into every solo that you play. It may be better to present a few ideas and try to develop those into something meaningful." This was an excellent point. Many recordings contain solos which cover the whole map?