

Lesson 15e.

Jobim I'm Jokin'

Any manner of rhythm can be adapted to just about any song. A straight eighth style is generally used in most latin rhythms and such is the case in this version of the favourite tune. Due to the overabundance of filler material, totally new themes have emerged and the arrangement only gets back into the original song in the "B" section. Although the harmony is somewhat modified, the essential three chord logic still remains and that might be the thing that glues things together.

In a relaxed Bossa groove

Chord progression for Section A:

C C7 F C

G7 C G11 G7b5 C

C G7 C G9

C G7 C G7

C C7 Fm C

G7 C G7b5 C G7

Chord progression for Section B:

C C7 F C

The musical score consists of five staves of music in treble clef, 7/8 time. The notes are as follows:

- Staff 1: G7, C, G11, G7b5, C
- Staff 2: C, G11, G7, C, G7
- Staff 3: C, G7, C, G7, G7+5
- Staff 4: C, C7, F, C
- Staff 5: G7, C, G7, G11, C

It is unlikely that I would be able to improvise something with such a rigid structure as is presented here and also in the solos that follow. Creating on paper and improvisation certainly are not quite the same for mere mortals. The true improviser does not have the chance to "take back some notes". I am certain that even the greatest jazz players have had that thought after hearing a particularly offensive take in some recording or concert session.

Many jazz players claim to be improvising but that may not always be the total truth. Having heard even some great players playing more or less the same solo in several performances leads me to believe that they have a somewhat rehearsed version of a particular tune. Absolutely "brand new stuff" may be hard to create on every performance. A more likely scenario is that the really good stuff will cling in your memory and you may recall it for future use. The very experienced great players have such a bag full of goodies that they can often piece together a new version of a song from the parts catalogue.

Another one of my students asked this question. "Why would you play a song in some seemingly bizarre manner?" I suppose the best answer is: "For the fun of it!" It might be very much like the fact that people still keep on climbing Mount Everest although it has now been done many times. Apparently there is a certain thrill and fun in the process although I don't plan on signing up for the trip any time soon.