

THE LIST

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RHYTHM

- Phrases of quarter notes, 8ths, triplet 8ths, 16ths, triplet 16ths, 32nds etc.
- Alternating phrases with different rhythmic values
- Mixed meters
- Rubato
- Accelerando
- Ritardando
- Metronome practice: on 2 & 4, 4 only, 2-1/2 & 4-1/2, 3-1/2 only
- Over-the-bar phrasing
- Play 4/4 tune in 3/4, 5/4 7/4
- Rhythmic feels: swing, straight-8th, half-time, double-time, lay back, on top
- Start and end phrases on a different beat (or part of a beat)
- Augmentation
- Diminution
- 2 against 3, 3 against 4, etc.; reverse hands
- Dotted rhythms
- Changes, no tempo
- Time, no changes

HARMONY

- Pedal Points
- Polychords
- Free Harmonization: functional or abstract
- Improvise on changes only in m2, M2 up or down from wherever you start
- Slow harmonic rhythm
- Fast harmonic rhythm
- Chromatic passing chords
- Parallel harmonic motion
- 2-part playing
- 3-part playing
- 4-part playing
- Dense harmony
- Open harmony (4ths and 5ths)
- Modal harmony
- Clusters
- Tritone substitutes
- Interpolate II-V progressions

- Ascending and descending bass lines
- Diatonic improvisation
- "Avoid" notes
- Playing outside the changes
- Use of exotic scales: whole tone, mixed
- Moving inner voices
- Triads over bass notes
- Double triads
- Add interludes
- Transpose: one key, two keys
- Start intros in "foreign" keys

MELODY

- Octave displacement
- Embellishments: turns, mordents
- Close intervals: major or minor seconds
- Wide leaps
- Augmentation
- Diminution
- Play all phrases on pick-ups
- 3-note cells
- 4-note cells
- 5-note cells
- Use cells from the melody, one per chorus
- Free chromatic improvisation
- Motivic improvisation
- Melodic improvisation
- Dissonant improvisation
- Intervallic playing
- Minimalist playing

PIANISTIC DEVICES

- Short sounds
- Legato
- Trills: one hand; two hands: same pitches, complementary pitches
- Broken octaves, octaves
- Tremolo
- 2-hand chords
- Contrary motion
- Arpeggios: RH, LH, hands together, contrary motion
- Doubled lines: at the octave; at two octaves
- Two-handed patterns; ascending and descending
- One-handed patterns with multiple pitches
- Walking bass

- Full stride
- Broken stride
- Left hand patterns under melody
- Melody in left hand under chords
- Melody in middle
- Cross hands
- Repeated notes: one hand, two hands
- Staccato accents
- Independent dynamics between hands
- Independent articulation between hands
- Very loud
- Very soft
- Static dynamics
- Wide dynamic contrasts
- Moving rhythmic chords ("sax section"); full or three-note
- Counterpoint: alternating or simultaneous
- Static left hand
- Thirds
- Sixths
- Tenths: one handed or two-handed
- No pedal
- Una corda pedal
- Lots of pedal
- Inside the piano: random or identify pitches
- Vamps
- Large romantic gestures
- Minimal gestures
- Trills in middle with melody on top
- Ostinatos: romantic/pedaled; crisp; narrow intervals; wide intervals

FORM

- Lose the form
- Extend the form
- Interludes
- Spin off on a motif
- Play changes twice as fast as melody
- Play changes twice as slow as melody
- Play loosely on melody only
- Play loosely on changes only
- Interrupt the form