

## D MINOR JAZZ CHORDAL IMPROVISATION

The problem with sticking to the BLUES SCALE is your playing sounds Bluesy not Jazzy! To create more of a Jazz flavour you need to start playing with each chord INDIVIDUALLY. This is where Jazz gets more difficult. You can't just rely on one scale anymore - now you need scales for every chord change.

But don't panic. Take it step by step again. The easiest way to start is to use the CHORD tones in your right hand because they are easier to remember and guaranteed to sound OK. The trick is to make them sound interesting - this is where the hard work comes in.

Try your D Minor Jazz chords again but slow it WAY down. Just HOLD each chord for the 4 beats in the bar and in the RIGHT hand use the chord notes to make up some riffs. Try it yourself first then try the suggestions on the next 2 pages.

### DO IT YOURSELF D MINOR JAZZ

The image displays four rows of musical notation for D Minor Jazz chordal improvisation exercises. Each row consists of a single bass clef staff with a 4/4 time signature. The exercises are as follows:

- Row 1:** Labeled with **Dm7**, **Em7**, and **Dm7** in red. The first measure contains a Dm7 chord (F, A, C, D), the second an Em7 chord (D, F, A, B), and the third a Dm7 chord (F, A, C, D).
- Row 2:** Labeled with **Em7**, **Dm7**, and **Em7** in red. The first measure contains an Em7 chord (D, F, A, B), the second a Dm7 chord (F, A, C, D), and the third an Em7 chord (D, F, A, B).
- Row 3:** Labeled with **Gm7**, **Am7**, and **Gm7** in red. The first measure contains a Gm7 chord (Bb, Db, F, G), the second an Am7 chord (C, Eb, G, A), and the third a Gm7 chord (Bb, Db, F, G).
- Row 4:** Labeled with **Am7**, **Dm7**, and **Em7** in red. The first measure contains an Am7 chord (C, Eb, G, A), the second a Dm7 chord (F, A, C, D), and the third an Em7 chord (D, F, A, B).

Each measure is 4 beats long, and the exercises are numbered 4, 7, and 10 at the beginning of their respective rows.

# D MINOR JAZZ

## CHORDAL IMPROVISATION 1

D F A C B G E B D F A C

Measures 1-3 of the first system. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the harmony is in the bass clef. Chords are labeled in red: Dm7, Em7, and Dm7.

4 B D F D C B G E D

Measures 4-6 of the first system. The melody continues in the treble clef. Chords are labeled in red: Em7, Dm7, and Em7.

7 Bb G Bb D C A C E D Bb D F

Measures 7-9 of the first system. The melody continues in the treble clef. Chords are labeled in red: Gm7, Am7, and Gm7.

10 E C A E D

Measures 10-12 of the first system. The melody continues in the treble clef. Chords are labeled in red: Am7, Dm7, and Em7.

## D MINOR JAZZ CHORDAL IMPROVISATION 2

This is the previous tune 'Jazzed-up' a bit. Notice that you just use your thumb in the left hand for an extra mid bar beat.

Measures 1-3 of the piece. The key signature is D minor (one flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the harmony is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated in red text below the bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes.

Measures 1-3: Dm7, Em7, Dm7

Fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5

Measures 4-6 of the piece. The key signature is D minor (one flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the harmony is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated in red text below the bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes.

Measures 4-6: Em7, Dm7, Em7

Fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5

Measures 7-9 of the piece. The key signature is D minor (one flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the harmony is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated in red text below the bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes.

Measures 7-9: Gm7, Am7, Gm7

Fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5

Measures 10-12 of the piece. The key signature is D minor (one flat). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the harmony is in the bass clef. Chords are indicated in red text below the bass staff. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5 above the notes.

Measures 10-12: Am7, Dm7 Em7, Fmaj7 Em7

Fingerings: 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5, 1 2 3 4 5