

Improvisation Workshop: Create your sound with Scales, Arpeggios, and 5-finger Patterns



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Presentation Summary: To most students, technical exercises are something to prepare, memorize, and ultimately forget. Other students simply play them as a warmup routine without knowing what they are. However, these are useful skills that can be used to improvise, play variations, or even compose songs. This presentation will discuss how students can learn to explore improvisation and composition using the elements from their technique requirements.

About the Presenter: Yuko Maruyama is a pianist-composer-arranger from Tokyo, Japan. She holds a Master’s degree in Jazz Studies from USC. A Kawai Pianos recording and performing artist, Yuko has toured the U.S. with her acclaimed 2002 album, “In Tone Nation,” which was the premiere jazz recording of the all-hand-crafted Shigeru Kawai concert grand piano from Japan. She currently serves as the MTAC Improvisation State Chair and is also the president of the MTAC San Diego Branch.

Music Examples from the Presentation

5-Finger Pattern Improvisation Exercises on 4-measure progression

A [RH 5-Finger Pattern]

C F G F
I IV V IV

“Blues” 5-Finger Pattern & 12-bar blues chord progression

A [RH 5-Finger Pattern]

B [LH accompaniment]

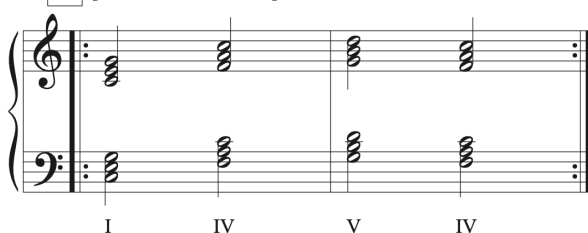

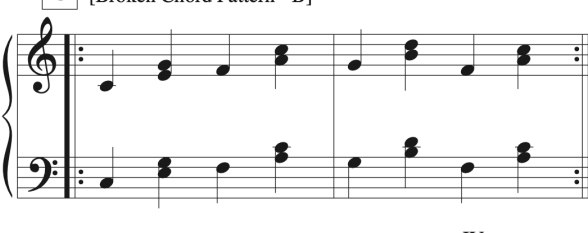

C7 F7
C7 G7 C7

Scales: Partimento Improvisation Exercises

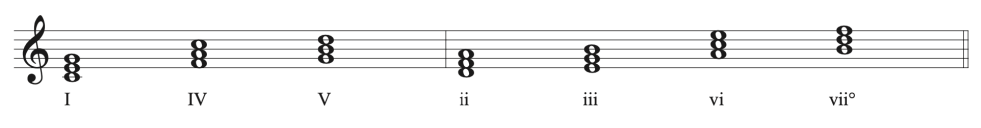
A [RH Scale] **B** [LH Scale]

C [Right Hand Improvisation]

Music Examples from the Presentation (cont'd)
Primary Triads Rhythmic Variation Exercises

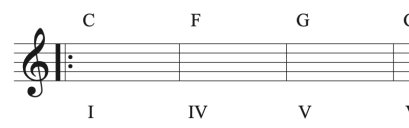
<p>A [Root Position Chords]</p>  <p align="center">I IV V IV</p>	<p>B [Broken Chord Pattern - A]</p>  <p align="center">I IV V IV</p>
<p>C [Broken Chord Pattern - B]</p>  <p align="center">I IV V IV</p>	<p>D [Montuno]</p>  <p align="center">I IV V IV</p>

Primary & Secondary Triads / Arpeggios on chord progressions



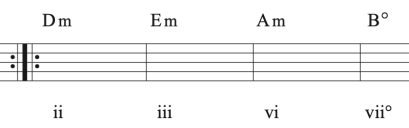
I IV V ii iii vi vii°

A [Primary Triads] **B** [Secondary Triads]



C F G G

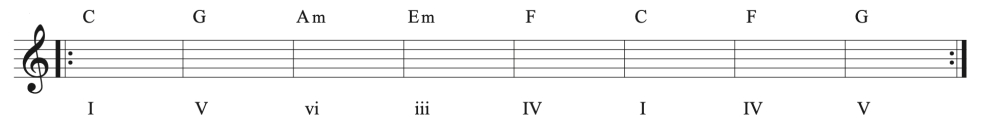
I IV V V



Dm Em Am B°

ii iii vi vii°

C ["Canon in C" - 8-measure chord progression]



C G Am Em F C F G

I V vi iii IV I IV V

Resources

- The Art of Partimento by Giorgio Sanguinetti (Oxford Press)
- www.partimenti.org
- Salsa Guidebook by Rebeca Mauleón (Sher Music Co.)
- iReal Pro – backing track app – www.irealpro.com