

PEACE PIECE - Bill Evans – from “Everybody Digs Bill Evans”

Ideas for Improvisation

1. Use the C Major Scale

- The most ‘important’ notes melodically in this scale are the notes of the C Major triad – C,E,G. Play around with just these 3 notes.
- Put a leading tone on each of the main notes of the C triad. (a leading tone is a note a semitone beneath the target tone).
- Try to ‘surround’ each of these notes of the C major triad with a note above, then a note below then the chord tone.
- Play the whole scale - beginning on any note – but chose a ‘good’ note to finish on!
- Just fragments of the whole scale – 2, 3 or 4 notes repeated a number of times
- Use triads or scale tone 7th chords or fourths from the scale as arpeggios or broken chords
- Use pentatonic scales (pentatonic = 5 tones = these steps from the major scale – 1,2,3,5,6. That is the major scale without the 4th or 7th degrees of the scale). Use perhaps the C Major Pentatonic – (C,D,E,G,A), or the G Major pentatonic scale – (G,A,B,D,E)
- Play 2 notes played together – 3rds or 6ths sound best – set your thumb and little finger the appropriate distance apart and harmonize a little melody using the white notes – you will hear the top note as being the melody, while the lower note is the harmony.
- Use trills – 2 notes rapidly repeated – or other ornaments.
- Use glissando – turn your hand over and run your fingernail(s) up or down the keyboard rapidly. Try to finish on a ‘strong’ note – the root, 3rd or 5th.

2. Quote from other well known songs

3. Briefly move the melody to another key - try G Major – which will give the melody a lydian sound.

4. Transpose the Left hand into another key - and play 8/16 bars in a totally different key – maybe to a key that is up or down from the original key by a semitone (to Db) , or a minor 3rd (to Eb).

5. Use **appoggiatura** – (non scale tones that occur on a strong beat – and resolve by ½ step to a chord tone.)

6. Use lots of dynamic range ppp - fff