

Advanced Jazz 4

Linear Harmony (Part 4)

by Ron Drotos

One of the great things about piano is that, unlike with horn players, our improvisations don't have to be confined to a single melodic line. Indeed, 2-voice textures sound great when played in the right hand. I especially like to improvise this way on bossa novas.

Here's how a 2-voice improvisation would sound on "The Girl From Ipanema." Note that sometimes the 2 voices sometimes move in parallel motion, at other times in contrary motion, and occasionally as 2 independent voices, as in m. 7-8.

Bossa Nova

F Maj7 G7

G7 Gm7 G \flat 7(b5)

F Maj7 G \flat 7(b5) F Maj7

F Maj7 G7

G m7 G^b7(b5) F Maj7

F Maj7 G^bMaj7

B7 F#m7

F#m7 D7

G m7 Eb7

Eb7 A m7 D 7(#11)

G m7 C 7(#11) F Maj7

F Maj7 G7

G m7 Gb7(b5) F Maj7 Gb7(b5)