

Session 2

The Wheels on the Bus (Eb Instruments) arr R Michael

This session demonstrates how to improvise on a standard tune, using the chord changes of E and B7. As you improvise, keep the tune in your head and be aware of when the chords change.

Melody

Chords

E B7

E B7 E

No 1. Repetition - just play it again with a different ending.

E B7

E B7 E

No 2. Inversion - turn the phrase upside down.

E B7

E B7 E

No 3. Transposition - move the phrase up or down the scale.

Two staves of music in E major (one sharp). The first staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to B4, and then down to E4. The second staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to B4, and then down to E4. Chord symbols E and B7 are placed above the staves.

No 4. Space - miss out a bit.

Two staves of music in E major. The first staff shows a phrase with a gap (rest) in the middle. The second staff shows a phrase with a gap (rest) in the middle. Chord symbols E and B7 are placed above the staves.

No 5. Call and response - play a phrase, then give it a musical answer. It is said that the great Mozart also used this idea.

Two staves of music in E major. The first staff shows a phrase followed by a response. The second staff shows a phrase followed by a response. Chord symbols E and B7 are placed above the staves.

No 6. Sequence/Pattern - move the phrase up or down the chord tones.

Two staves of music in E major. The first staff shows a phrase moving up and down the chord tones. The second staff shows a phrase moving up and down the chord tones. Chord symbols E and B7 are placed above the staves.

No7. Anticipation - play a phrase then repeat it, starting before you expect the phrase to start.

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Two staves of music in treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to G4, then down to F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G#3, F#3, E3. The second staff repeats the phrase, but the first two notes (E4, G4) are beamed together and start earlier than the first bar line, indicating anticipation. Chords E and B7 are indicated above the notes.

No 8. Augmentation - play a phrase then repeat doubling the time values.

Two staves of music in treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to G4, then down to F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G#3, F#3, E3. The second staff repeats the phrase, but the notes are beamed together and their durations are doubled, indicating augmentation. Chords E and B7 are indicated above the notes.

No 9. Diminution - play a phrase then halve the time values.

Two staves of music in treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to G4, then down to F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G#3, F#3, E3. The second staff repeats the phrase, but the notes are beamed together and their durations are halved, indicating diminution. Chords E and B7 are indicated above the notes.

No 10. Displacement - play a phrase, then repeat moving the pitches around to different places in the bar.

Two staves of music in treble clef, key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The first staff shows a phrase starting on E4, moving up to G4, then down to F#4, E4, D4, C#4, B3, A3, G#3, F#3, E3. The second staff repeats the phrase, but the notes are beamed together and their durations are halved, indicating displacement. Chords E and B7 are indicated above the notes.