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Amazing Phrasing - Keyboard: 50 Ways To Improve Your Improvisational Skills Bk/Online Audio



Synopsis

(Keyboard Instruction). Amazing Phrasing is for any keyboard player interested in learning how to improvise and how to improve their creative phrasing. This method is divided into three parts: Melody From scales to arpeggios, from using licks, riffs and runs to playing "outside," this section focuses on melodic strategies for improvisation; Harmony Whether comping or soloing, harmony is essential to improvisation, and this section covers it in detail; Rhythm & Style Swing, laying back, shaping your phrases with accents ... this last section puts the finishing touches on your improvisational technique. You'll learn approaches to working with and around other musicians, and you'll practice comping and soloing over progressions in various styles from rock to bossa nova to swing to bebop. The companion audio contains 44 full-band demos for listening, as well as many play-along examples so you can practice improvising over various musical styles and progressions. The audio is accessed online using the unique code inside each book and can be streamed or downloaded. The audio files include PLAYBACK+, a multi-functional audio player that allows you to slow down audio without changing pitch, set loop points, change keys, and pan left or right.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book/CD set is the keyboard part of Hal Leonard series "Amazing Phrasing" with 50 bite-sized improvisation gems: Many ideas are for beginning improvisers, several are for more advanced students. For under \$17 you get a book and a 44 track play-along CD which is the most valuable

part of the package! A similar format (1-2 pages of 50 quick ideas plus CD) Amazing Phrasing is also available for guitar, trumpet, alto and tenor sax.Â Â Debbie Denke wishes to extend an offer for a free 10 week syllabus (used at SBCC) to piano teachers who buy Amazing Phrasing - Keyboard & email her through her website.Â Â

Debbie Denke is a Hal Leonard author.

I've been playing piano a long time, often without really knowing what I'm doing. This book helps build the foundational knowledge for the things you might do intuitively and then allows you to take them further and expand your ability based on sound fundamentals. I don't review books often - this one is worth every cent.

Review for Amazing Phrasing: The premise of this book is excellent, but the execution falls far short of what is promised. Had the author illustrated each idea the way she does the very first one, providing a notated example of how to put one's own spin on an existing melody along with a sound track, this would have been a fantastic book. Unfortunately, it is, as other reviewers have pointed out a complete waste of money. I was, in fact, quite surprised by the reviewer who said their kids had learnt to play in different styles from the book alone since the book provides woefully inadequate instructions for the beginner. 1) The introduction tells us the book will go beyond scales, patterns, and chords. However, Idea #2 talks about arpeggiation, which any pianist worth their salt knows about. No examples are provided as to how to add arpeggiation to an existing melody. Ideas 3 through 8 talk about the various scales and how they are formed with the instruction simply to "make up phrases" based on the scale. 2) The intro also suggests every idea in the Melody section will build toward creating a solo. Again, no examples or sound tracks are provided. The author merely tells would-be improvisers to use accents, rests, repetition, skips & steps, the entire range of the keyboard and to avoid being predictable. She goes on to define speed, thicker textures, and to instruct the reader to use dynamics and dissonance to create tension! 3) Licks, riffs, and runs get a single page. The author defines each, and then goes on to give us a long-winded explanation of why it would be best to make up one's own. No examples are provided, no sound tracks, no instructions as to how to go about making up one's own. 4) Ideas 11 (Play with confidence) and 14 (Be tasteful) should have been part of the introduction, since presumably the premise of the book is to build the would-be improviser's confidence by providing solid skills and to provide enough instruction to know how much to embellish/improvise upon a piece. 5) Often times, it's unclear

whether a particular idea would be useful for an accompanist, the soloist, or someone playing from a lead sheet. All three roles call for some form of improvisation, and there's no reason why one book should not attempt to address all three.⁶) It's also unclear whether the intended reader is a beginning pianist (the explanation of arpeggios and scales, for instance) or someone fairly adept at improvisation (the constant injunction to make up one's own phrase). Idea 14 provides a perfect example: "Generally speaking, don't add a bunch of complex tones like altered fifths, ninths, elevenths...." The author then goes on to add in parentheses: "If you don't know what I'm talking about, don't worry about it because you probably don't play these tones anyway." Unfortunately neither the beginner nor someone fairly adept at improvising will benefit from this book. The only Amazing aspect of the entire book is that Hal Leonard chose to publish it.

Good resource. I like the way the information is divided into 50 topics. Not too technically overwhelming. Gives me a chance to integrate the mental aspect of music to the intuitive....

Another wonderful book to refer to for learning.

As an adult beginner, I find the Alfred's series excellent. They seem to be fairly 'formal' in approach, so I'm always wondering what part of that material the pros concentrate on. This book helps with that. The book is divided into 'Thoughts' which cover different subjects. It states which formal aspects you need to have down cold - which scales and modes, and where to go from there. I've bought several piano books, more often than not disappointed after reading them. This one is a keeper.

It's a good book about phrasing, but it is similar to many other books. I would recommend it if you are one of those lucky persons with hours to spare, and use the information in hours of practice to develop the mind in this discipline.

My wife likes it.

excellent

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