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Vol. 54, Maiden Voyage: Fourteen Easy-To-Play Jazz Tunes (Book & CD Set) (Play- A-Long)



Synopsis

Beginning/Intermediate. Standards and workouts for making the transition from playing scales & chords. An excellent resource for beginning improv. Features slower tempos, easier changes, and specific tips on approaching soloing. Scales written for every chord change. Perfect for High School and College music directors! For more easy standards at easy tempos, see Volume 70 Killer Joe. Rhythm Section: Jamey Aebersold (p); Tyrone Wheeler (b); Steve Davis (d). Includes: Summertime, Shuffle Time (Bb Shuffle Blues), Impressions, Maiden Voyage, Watermelon Man, Doxy, Autumn Leaves, Solar Flair, Song For My Father, Cantaloupe Island, Satin Doll, Tootsie (Blues In F), Footprints, III/VI7/II/V7 (song based on the III/VI7/ii/V7 Progression).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Great place to start improvising! This is Volume No. 54 in Jamey Aebersold's seemingly endless series of play-along recordings. It is aimed at beginning improvisers. The tunes are solid jazz repertoire---"Autumn Leaves," "Doxy," "Summertime," "Watermelon Man," "Satin Doll," "Song For My Father," "Impressions, two blues and a few others---but the tempos are slow enough for beginners to "hang." The lead sheets are legible, the changes are good, and the trio (piano, bass, drums) is lively and solid. The two blues heads ("Shuffle Time" and "Tootsie") are Aebersold originals. They're very good. (Jamey tends to write tunes that are fun to play.) Speaking of Aebersold originals, one here is called "Solar Flair." Years ago, it was called "Blue Bossa." For some reason, the recent volumes of Vol. 54 do not contain the head to "Blue Bossa," but these are the same changes and you can play "Blue Bossa" over "Solar Flair." That's one more jam-session staple to add to your rep!

This is jazz at a slow pace that a beginner can learn from and enjoy. If you can read music and make use of the back beats, you can play along with some real classics. Personally, I've learned the head to Watermelon Man, Solar Flair, Impressions, and Herbie Hancock's Maiden Voyage. The CD is great, but what's better is the actual bands which have recorded themselves playing these songs on Youtube. Makes for a great experience. It was recommended to me by two separate music teachers, one a professor.

This is the best book for beginning improvisors. I have all of my students buy Volume 1, then this one. The tunes are easily to handle (Summertime, Blues in Bb, etc...) and the tempos are pretty reasonable. There's lots of good information in the text. A good overall introduction to the world of improvisation.

For a more seasoned student, this book is a wonderful introduction to jazz improvisation. It works best with horn students and is a wonderful opportunity to teach them chord construction and scale theory. A pianist or a guitarist should understand "A" "B" or "jazz voicings/chords" before approaching this book, or accompanying others. Some voicings are included on iconic songs, but most are left up to the player. Jazz musicians usually play sheets like these called "lead sheets" where only the melody and chord progression are given. So, if a pianist is used to classical music, this is going to be a big step for him. It's not that he'd need to absolutely play jazz voicings, but it sounds better. Basic triads would at least get the basic notes played and be workable. The most valuable thing about (most of) these books is they show you scale construction and what scale to play over what chord. It's not that certain notes absolutely cannot be played over a certain chord (ie blues scale (b3) over a major chord(135)), but as many of us jazz musicians say, you have to know the rules to break them. I am a professional jazz musician and teacher, and without Jamey's books in middle school and highschool, I would not have been prepared for the real world of jazz!

Jamey has probably done, and continues to do more for jazz education than anyone else around. This volume is further evidence of that fact.

Excellent learning materials

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