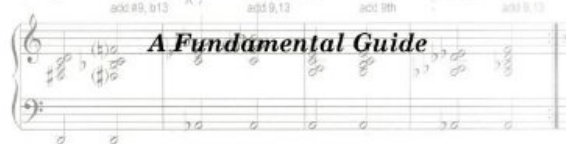


JAZZ PIANO AND HARMONY : A FUNDAMENTAL GUIDE (BOOK & CD) BY JOHN M. FERRARA



JAZZ Piano and Harmony



by John M. Ferrara



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About the Author

Author John Ferrara is a jazz pianist who has toured with and arranged for the Buddy Rich Big Band. He has performed with Joe Williams, Chico Hamilton, Philly Joe Jones, Clark Terry, Lou Tabackin, Al Cohn, Nelson Riddle, and Suzanne Somers, among others. He is a former instructor at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and San Diego State University, and has taught at jazz seminars in Copenhagen, Denmark. He holds a bachelor's degree in composition and piano from Berklee, and has recorded with his own jazz trio and the Carmen Leggio quartet. His latest CD "Intervals of Light" is available on Amazon. He currently works as a freelance pianist and arranger in New York City.

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A comprehensive guide to jazz piano and harmony for the beginning to intermediate pianist/musician. The subject content starts with basic triad and seventh chord construction, and continues with inversions and voice leading, left hand voicings, improvisation techniques, tensions, spread voicings, diatonic harmony and substitutions, secondary dominants, harmonic analysis, cadences, and blues. There are over fifty full pages of music examples, along with exercises to help the student comprehend the subject matter.

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Sophisticated without being overwhelming.

By M. Mazza

If you've been considering studying jazz piano, this is the book you must definitely own...I first purchased Mark Levine's Jazz Piano book, and though this is a fantastic reference source on the stylistic history of jazz piano with many examples, it is a bit overwhelming to manage from a practical standpoint. There is just so much, one doesn't know where to start.

Mr. Ferrara, on the other hand, has a gift for focusing the student on critical areas. His chapter on voice leading is so enjoyable and wonderful to work through that it is both inspiring and demystifying.

For [the money], you get the book and CD, in which Mr. Ferrara lectures and plays some tasty examples...

Here is what you get:

- 1.) Step by step chapters on chord construction: You begin with triads and work your way through four-part chords.
- 2.) Voice Leading techniques: as you play chords, your transitions can be creative and smooth. Mr. Ferrara takes you through this with a tasteful progression that is fun to play--that is, IT DOESN'T FEEL like an exercise. My teacher had me apply a bass line to it while doing the voice leading in the right hand. I've also

applied other approaches (i.e. stride with voice leading). Better yet--you can use this in actual tunes--and you will be playing as a professional does. I can't tell you how happy you'll be to hear yourself voicing chords this way. I have plenty of books, and I rarely see other authors address the topic with the clarity that Mr. Ferrara does. Some ignore it altogether.

3.) Diatonic Chord Substitution: this is usable theory that is easy to understand and apply.

4.) A Complete listing of the II-7--V7--Imaj7 progression in all keys: This is fantastic practice--and critical.

5.) Spread Voicings: beautiful voicing ideas. You'll be constructing chords by spreading their notes over different registers of the piano.

6.) Secondary dominants.

7.) Improvisation note palettes.

8.) Blues progressions and scales.

9.) Tensions with an accompanying chart to show how and where to apply those 9ths, 11ths, and 13ths.

I should also mention that certain sections are designed like a workbook. You label chords, write them in note by note (great reading practice), develop progressions, understand substitutions, and more. This means you can also practice away from the piano.

For [the money], you get enough to keep you busy and entertained for a while. Mr. Ferrara's book is easily worth twice as much. I already have his second book, and it looks just as promising. I'm still working with this one, and I am so convinced of its quality that I wanted to recommend it to others who may be confused about what resources to use. You won't be sorry if you purchase this. Enjoy!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Four Stars

By Jean Wilson

Just what I need at age 89 to keep my mind and my fingers active!

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good

By Michail Chourdakis

Good overall. I expected it to have samples for the professional classical-pianist which would want to practise on but elementary jazz pieces ;)

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