Take Note Online Jazz Workshops – Series 1

Episode 4: Improvising with the Pentatonic Scale



Practice Ideas:

- Try to play melodies and musical phrases that start on other notes of the scale, not just the root note.
- Try hearing melodic ideas based off the pentatonic scale. Sing the melody to yourself first, then try and play what you sang.
- Incorporate interesting rhythms into your improvising with the pentatonic scale. Write out a few rhythms and try to play them (on loop) with one note, then add more notes/pitches.

Here are some rhythms to give you some ideas and get you going – after you've tried these, come up with some of your own!



Melbourne International Jazz Festival Take Note Online Jazz Workshops 2020 Support Materials

MELB INT'L JAZZ FEST

Songs to check out from the Spotify Playlist featuring the minor pentatonic scale

- Equinox by John Coltrane
- Song For My Father by Horace Silver
- Footprints by Wayne Shorter
- Cantaloupe Island by Herbie Hancock