

KSMA Jazz Assignment #1

Four Strong Winds

In this lesson we will examine the basic form of jazz. In the following play-along, you will hear a jazz version of a Canadian folk tune in the key of G. In traditional jazz, musicians start with the theme of the song, which is commonly called the “head”. The musicians then break out into solos while the band continues to play the harmonic backdrop of the tune until all the solos are done and then they go back to the head. Each time that the soloist plays one time through while the band is playing the harmonic backdrop of the tune, is called a chorus. Soloists can usually take as many choruses as they want but in this play along you will hear two choruses that you can solo over before going back to the head.

Try playing along the melody of the head, using the pdf provided as a reference, and then improvising anything you want in the key of G for the two choruses before coming back to the head.

Pianists can play RH only and when comfortable, add the LH chords. You’ll probably want to keep the chords simple, like playing on the first beat of each measure as an example.

Bassists can try playing the 1st and 5ths of each chord on each beat (basically keeping quarter notes) or on 1st and 3rd beats (half notes) but will want to follow the same instructions for the solo as for all instruments.

Four Strong Winds

Ian Tyson

G Am

Four Strong Winds that blow lonely sev - en

4 D G G

seas that run high, all those things that don't

7 Am D D

change come what may But our

10 G Am

good times are all gone and I'm

12 D G Am

bound for mov - in' on, I'll look for you if I'm

15 C D D

ev - er back this way