

C KMEA State Jazz Improvisation Builder

Trombone and Bass

Blue Bossa Changes

Tips for Practicing Improvisation and Making the Changes: Blue Bossa by Kenny Dorham

- 1 – Listen to several recordings of this jazz classic.
- 2 – Learn to play the original melody (by ear if possible).
- 3 – Embellish the melody and play along with the backing track.
- 4 – Slowly play chord tones (filled in notes below) of each chord (Root, 3rd 5th, 7th, 9th) in various ways.
- 5 – Gradually build your scale/chord knowledge at a SLOW tempo (Dorian Minors, Minor ii – V, Major ii – V).
Use a metronome and get faster only when you are comfortable.
- 6 – Practice easy patterns over the chord changes with a metronome at a slow tempo.
Highlight chord tones (3rds and 7ths) and get those sounds in your brain, ears and fingers.
- 7 – Notice all the common tones through the chord changes and also notice when there are big changes.
With a metronome at a slow tempo, try to change your scales, chords, and patterns along with the chord changes.
- 8 – Practice making your own melodies over the changes. Start slow and then gradually get faster.
Once you are comfortable, try it with the backing track.

Note: Filled in notes of the recommended scales below are the chord tones: Root, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th

Latin (Straight Eighths) ♩ = 160

The musical notation is presented in four systems, each with a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. The notes are filled in, representing chord tones. The systems are as follows:

- System 1:** Starts with a C-7 chord. The notes are C, E♭, G, B♭, D. This is followed by a double bar line with four diagonal slashes. The second measure starts with an F-7 chord. The notes are F, A♭, C, E♭, G. This is followed by another double bar line with four diagonal slashes.
- System 2:** Starts with a D♭7 chord. The notes are D♭, F, A♭, C, E♭. This is followed by a G7♭9 chord. The notes are G, B♭, D, F, A♭. This is followed by a C-7 chord. The notes are C, E♭, G, B♭, D. This is followed by a double bar line with four diagonal slashes.
- System 3:** Starts with an E♭-7 chord. The notes are E♭, G, B♭, D, F. This is followed by an A♭7 chord. The notes are A♭, C, E♭, G, B♭. This is followed by a D♭Maj7 chord. The notes are D♭, F, A♭, C, E♭. This is followed by a double bar line with four diagonal slashes.
- System 4:** Starts with a D♭7 chord. The notes are D♭, F, A♭, C, E♭. This is followed by a G7♭9 chord. The notes are G, B♭, D, F, A♭. This is followed by a C-7 chord. The notes are C, E♭, G, B♭, D. This is followed by a double bar line with four diagonal slashes.