

E_b KMEA State Jazz Improvisation Builder

Alto and Bari Sax

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

A-7 D-7

5 Bø7 E7b9 A-7

9 C-7 F7 BbMaj7

13 Bø7 E7b9 A-7