

Major Seventh Chord Studies

Exercises

Use legato tonguing for all exercises. Play each one slowly then gradually increase speed to as fast as possible. Do a brief analysis of the melodic patterns. For each chord, every note in the pattern is an essential chord tone (1, 3, 5, 7) or an available tension (6 or 9). Use swing interpretation (triplet feel on eighth notes) in slow tempos and even eighth notes (accenting up-beats) in fast tempos.

1

Exercise 1 consists of 21 measures of music in 4/4 time, featuring various major seventh chords and eighth-note patterns. The chords are: C^{M7}, G^{M7}, D^{M7}, A^{M7}, E^{M7}, B^{M7}, F^{M7}, D^bM⁷, A^bM⁷, E^bM⁷, B^bM⁷, F^{M7}, B^bM⁷, E^bM⁷, A^bM⁷, D^bM⁷, F^{M7}, B^{M7}, E^{M7}, A^{M7}, D^{M7}, G^{M7}, C^{M7}.

2

Exercise 2 consists of 4 measures of music in 4/4 time, featuring major seventh chords and eighth-note patterns with triplets. The chords are: G^{M7}, E^{M7}, F^{M7}.