

A decorative, symmetrical frame with a central oval shape and ornate, swirling flourishes on the sides and bottom.

THE TECHNIQUE OF
MODERN JAZZ THEORY

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THE TECHNIQUE OF
MODERN JAZZ THEORY

Frank Leanza

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Frank Leanza, arranger, composer and conductor is a native of Newark, New Jersey. He teaches harmony, theory, composition and arranging. He is an Authorized Teacher of the Schillinger System of Musical Composition. He has been active writing for the concert and marching bands, stage bands and the symphony orchestra.

He received his musical education at the New Jersey Musical College. Upon graduation, in 1950, he was offered a scholarship to the Julliard School of Music in New York, but chose to remain at the college on the faculty staff.

PREFACE

This book was written for the benefit of the professional musician who desires to understand theoretically what it is that they are playing. Most musicians are excellent improvisers, but are not aware of the many avenues available to them to expand on improvisation. The illustrations contained in this book when fully understood and played will be a welcomed experience.

The Technique of Modern Jazz Theory is an advancement of the basic diatonic harmony. The material in this treatise has been written in simple everyday language that can be easily understood. Excessive wordage has been avoided and only the essential information was used.

This book is designed to help the musician to improve on their musical knowledge without limiting their creative ability.

In summary, I concur fully with the author who said;
“One good illustration is worth more than a chapter of words”.

F.L.

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IMPROVISATION

There are numerous sources of information on improvisation. Some are excellent reference material and some cover only general information. The purpose of this chapter is to explain in simple terms what improvisation is and how best to apply it. For those who are already using improvisation in their performance, this chapter will show how to improve your improvisational ability.

To answer the question, “What is Improvisation?” it would be better understood if we know its definition. The dictionary defines improvisation as something that is prepared or provided offhand; to extemporize.

A musician can be compared to a public speaker. The lecturer will speak to the audience using very limited notes. Because he knows his subject well, he can deliver his speech extemporaneously. The speaker in developing his subject had to do extensive research and reviewed this information over and over again until he was completely confident and comfortable to speak on the subject to his audience.

Likewise, the musicians who desires to learn how to improvise or for those who want to improve on their improvisation, should do extensive research and learn what it takes to improvise. First, of all and of extreme importance, you should know your instrument. You should know the proper fingering for the complete range of the instrument, and the slide positions on the trombone.

Next, you must know and play all the major and minor scales. The different modal scales and other scales that include the blues scale, the pentatonic scales and the whole tone scale.

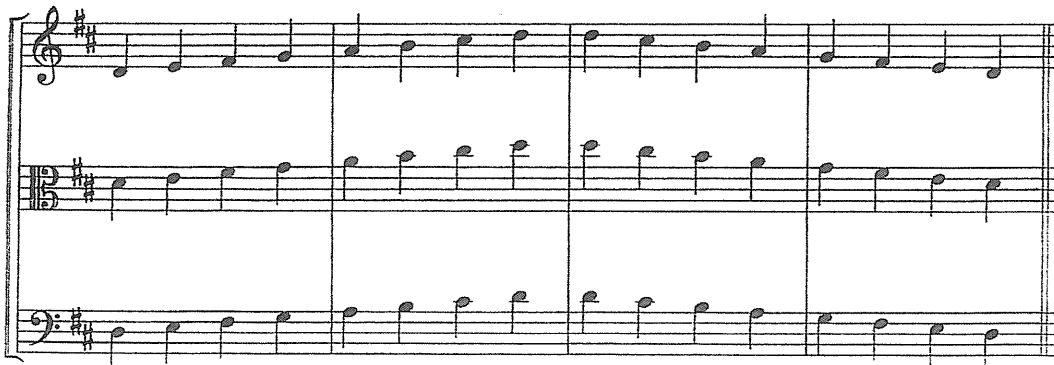
Example 1 C Major Scale



Example 2 G Major Scale



Example 3 D Major Scale



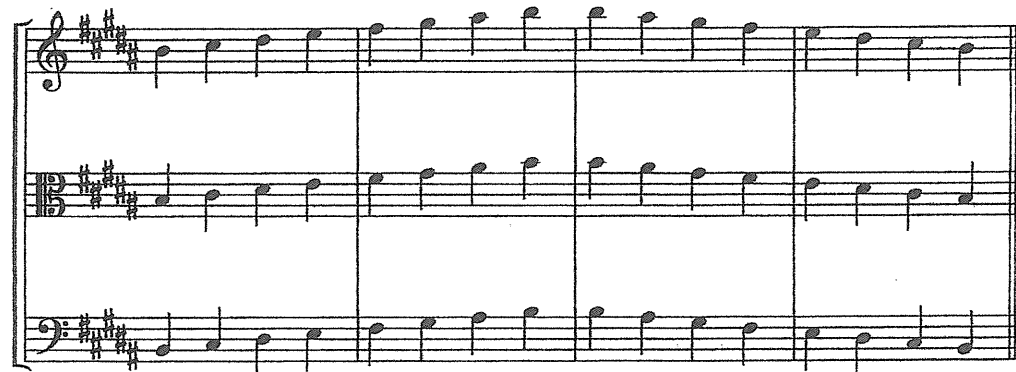
Example 4 A Major Scale



Example 5 E Major Scale



Example 6 B Major Scale



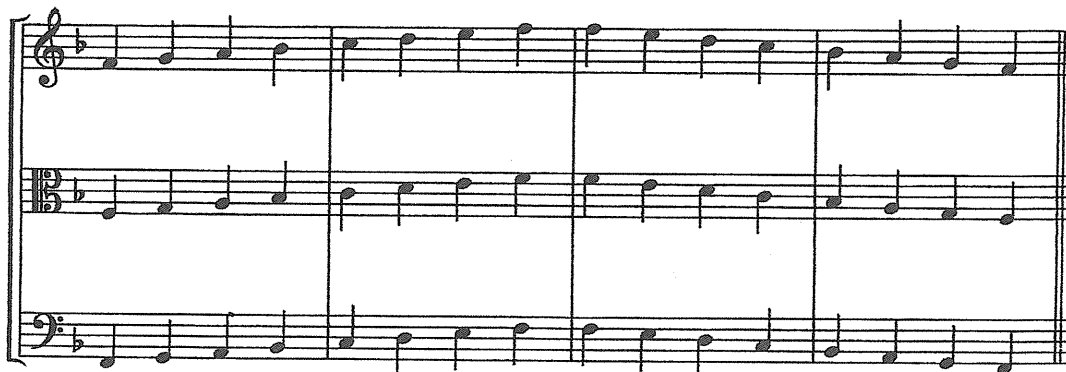
Example 7 F# Major Scale



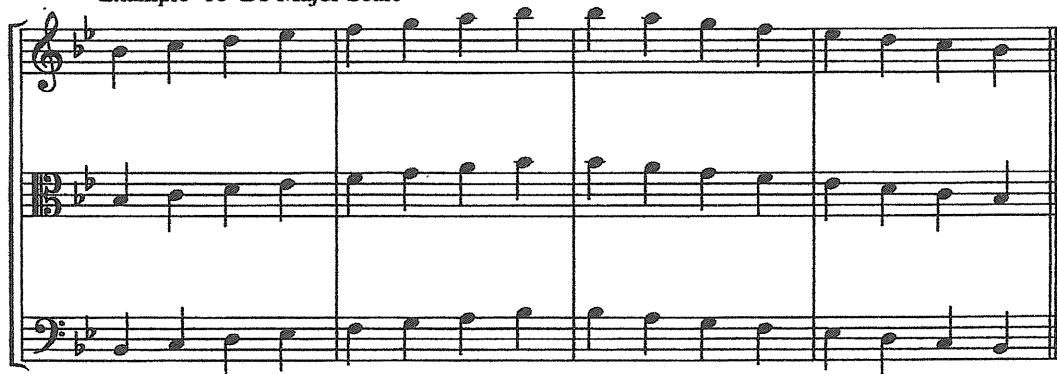
Example 8 C# Major Scale



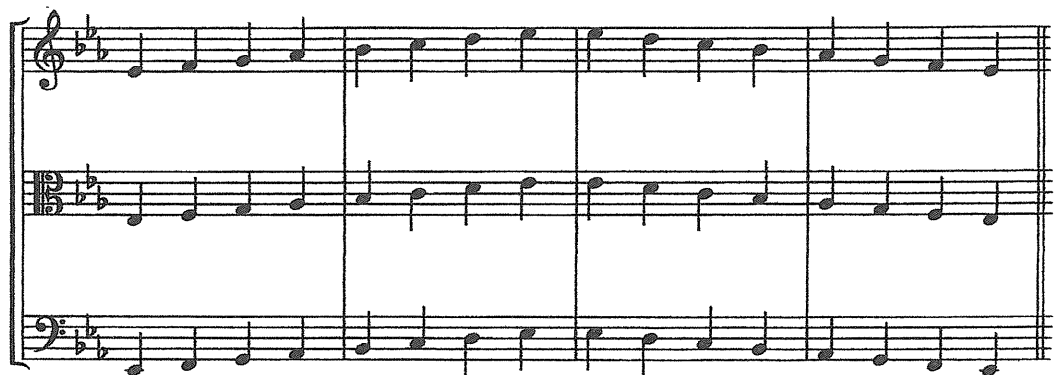
Example 9 F Major Scale



Example 10 Bb Major Scale



Example 11 Eb Major Scale



Example 12 Ab Major Scale



Example 13 Db Major Scale



Example 14 Gb Major Scale



Example 15 Cb Major Scale

