

CHROMATIC SCALE AND CHROMATIC PATTERNS

BEN PORTNER

The chromatic scale and chromatic patterns are extremely useful in improvising. They can be used as a means to get us from one melody note to another, build tension and take us up and down the keyboard when improvising. Here we will be going over the scale as well as some patterns you may find helpful in your improvisation

First we will go over the chromatic scale in two octaves. follow the fingerings.

1 3 1 3 1 2 3 1 3 1 3 1 2 1 1 3 1 2 3 1 3 1 3 1

C C# D Eb E F F# G G# A Bb B C C# D Eb E F F# G G# A Bb B

2 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 1 3 2 1 3 1 3 1

4 C C B Bb A G# G F# F E Eb D C# C B Bb A G# G F# F E Eb D C# C

CHROMATIC PATTERN 1

Now we will go over some chromatic patterns. It will be up to you to decide which fingering to use.

8 C D C# Eb D E Eb F E F# F G F# G# A G# Bb A B Bb C B C# C D C# Eb D E Eb F

12 E F# F G F# G# G A G# Bb A B Bb C B C# C D C D B C# Bb C A B G# Bb G A F# G#

16 F G E F# Eb F D E C# Eb C D B C# Bb C A B G# Bb G A F# G# F G E F# Eb F D E

20 C# Eb C

CHROMATIC PATTERN 2

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29 D C EbC#ED F Eb F#E G F G#F# G ^A BbG#BA C BbC#B D C EbC#ED F Eb

33 F#E G F G#F#AG ^bBb G#B A C Bb C#B D C D C C#B C Bb B A BbG#AG G#F#

37 G F F#E F EbE D EbC#DC C#BC Bb B A BbG#AG G#F#G F F#E F EbE D

41 EbC#DC

CHROMATIC PATTERN 3

50 C C#C C#DC#DEb D EbE EbE F E F F#F F#G F#GG#G G#AG#ABbA ^{Bb} B

54 BbB C B C C#CC# D C#DEbDEbE Eb E F E F F#F F#G F#G G#GG#AG#A

58 BbA BbB BbB C B C C#CC C#CB C B BbB BbA BbAG# AG#GG#GF#GF#

62 F F#FE F E EbE EbDEbDC#DC#C C#CB C B BbB Bb A BbA G#AG#GG#

66 G F#GF#FF#FE F E EbEEbDEbD C#DC#CC#C

CHROMATIC PATTERN 4

72 C C#DC#DEbDEb E EbE F E F F#F F#GF#G G#GG#A G#ABbA BbB BbB

76 C B C C#CC#DC# D EbDEbE EbE F E F F#F F#GF#G G#G G#AG#^A BbA

80 BbB BbB C C B Bb B Bb A Bb A G#A G#G G#GF#GF#F F#F E F E EbE EbD

84 EbD C#DC#CC#C B C B BbB BbA B A G#AG#GG#GF#GF#F F#F E F E

88 EbE EbDEbDC#D C#C

CHROMATIC PATTERN 5

96 C C#DEbC#DEbE D EbE F EbE F F# E F F#GF F#GG# F#GG#AG G#ABb

100 G#ABbB A BbB C BbB C C#BC C#D C C#DEbB C C#D BbB C C#ABbB C

104 G#ABbB G G#ABb F#GG#AF F#GG# E F F#GEbE F F# D EbE F C#DEbE

CHROMATIC PATTERN 6

108 C C#DEbE C#DEb E F D EbE F F#Eb E F F#GE F F#G G#FF#GG#A G^{F#}

112 G#ABbG G#ABbB G#ABbB C A BbB C C#BbBC C#DB C C#DEbCC#DEb

116 E B C C#DEbBbB C C#DA BbB C C# G#ABbB C G G#A BbB F#G G#ABbF

120 F#GG#AEFF#G G#EbEFF#GDEbE F F#C#DEbEF C C#DEbE

125 Try coming up with your own patterns the possibilities are endless

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