

Session 1

Mhari's Wedding (Eb Instruments)

arr R Michael

This session demonstrates how to improvise on a standard tune, using just one pentatonic (ie 5 note) scale, over the chords of E, A and B7.
As you improvise, keep the tune in your head and be aware of when the chords change.

Melody

Scale

The first system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Scale'. Both are in the key of E major (indicated by four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#) and 2/4 time. The melody line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes E, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E. The scale line consists of five quarter notes: E, G, A, B, D#.

The second system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Scale'. Both are in the key of E major (indicated by four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#) and 2/4 time. The melody line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes E, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E. The scale line consists of five quarter notes: E, G, A, B, D#.

The third system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Scale'. Both are in the key of E major (indicated by four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#) and 2/4 time. The melody line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes E, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E. The scale line consists of five quarter notes: E, G, A, B, D#.

The fourth system of music consists of two staves. The top staff is labeled 'Melody' and the bottom staff is labeled 'Scale'. Both are in the key of E major (indicated by four sharps: F#, C#, G#, D#) and 2/4 time. The melody line starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes E, G, A, B, A, G, F#, E. The scale line consists of five quarter notes: E, G, A, B, D#.

Now let's try out the ten basic techniques used in improvisation through all genres of music.

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No 1. Repetition - just play it again with a different ending.

E A B⁷

No 2. Inversion - turn the phrase upside down.

E A B⁷

No 3. Transposition - move the phrase up or down the scale.

E A B⁷

No 4. Space - miss out a bit.

E A B⁷

No 5. Call and response - play a phrase, then give it a musical answer

E A B⁷