# For The Contemporary Pianist By Andy LaVerne

# TONS OF RUNS

# **For The Contemporary Pianist**

By Andy LaVerne

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

### Thank you to:

- All the musicians who have provided ideas both directly and indirectly.
- Carol Flamm, who coined the phrase "tons of runs."
- Stuart Isacoff for his encouragement, guidance, and patience.

## INTRODUCTION

azz improvisation has been called an accelerated form of composition, because, although it is instantaneous, it draws on the same blend of theoretical techniques and intuitive musical instincts required for composition. It also involves a process similar to everyday conversation. And, as in the most articulate speech, improvisation improves when one's vocabulary is fortified.

That's where Tons of Runs can come in handy. It is a compendium of runs, licks, and lines found in the jazz vernacular: a vocabulary enhancer. Jazz melody consists of melodic motifs strung together to form longer phrases. The construction of these motifs is usually based on an underlying harmony. Stated simply, the lines are built on the chords—using chord tones, passing tones, resultant scales, and scale-tone chords in ever-varying mixtures. Along with this vocabulary, the jazz improviser also adds his or her aural instinct. At any point in an improvised solo, the soloist might play a run familiar to many musicians, which gives the listener as well as the player something to latch onto. This can be followed by a line created on the spot, which can be generated by hand position, or on the chord tones and/or scale tones, as a response to something someone else in the band just played, or as divine inspiration. The blend of these elements is what keeps a jazz solo vital and moving forward.

Tons of Runs is a collection of melodic motifs and phrases over a variety of chords and chord qualities. There are major chords, minor chords, half diminished and diminished chords, as well as various alterations. There are also progressions of ii-V-I in major and minor, cyclical progressions, and various cadences. All this is presented in a straight forward fashion, without analysis. As with much in music, analysis can come after the

fact. Of the myriad methods for using this volume, here are some suggestions which you might find useful:

- Leaf through the book from the beginning; when a run catches your ear, zoom in for closer inspection. Analyze it to see various components such as starting and ending notes, how the notes relate to the given chord (i.e., are they scale tones, and if so, what scale), how it uses chord tones, non-chord tones, chromatic tones, chord extensions, and chord alterations.
- Leaf through the book like a magazine, from back to front, then follow the same procedure as above.
- Start from somewhere in between, and go forward or back, or skip around.
- Start at the beginning, and follow through to the end. Go at a slow, comfortable pace.
  Mark your favorites, memorize them, and begin using these in your improvised solos.
- Use the book with a metronome; read through the runs without correcting errors.
  This can be valuable in increasing your sight reading skills. Start a slow tempos, and increase them gradually.
- Use the table of contents to access runs with specific phrase lengths, chord types and progressions in various categories.
  Then plug each run into specific chords in tunes.
- You will notice that each run appears in three different keys. The different sonorities will be apparent when you play them. When you come across a run you really like, transpose it to all the other tonal centers. Concentrate on that one run, until you have it down in all keys. Then you will be able to use it in any playing situation.
- Fingering is indicated in the trickiest places. These are merely suggestions; you might be able to come up with something more comfortable and negotiable that fits your hand

and technique. It is an important part of the improvisatory process to be able to finger "on the fly," simply because improvisation is spontaneous and there is no time to prefinger any given phrase. Here's a hint: consider the shape of the run and whether it goes up or down. See how many notes you can play while the hand is in one position.

- You'll notice that there are more dominant seventh runs than any other type in this collection. Many are based on the symmetric diminished scale (Whole Step-Half Step-Whole Step-Half Step, etc.). You can expand the application of these runs by applying them to major seventh chords (substitute a diminished seventh for the major seventh built on the same root). Apply them also to minor chords (ii in a ii-V progression) and to half diminished chords (the iib5 in a iib5-V progression).
- You can also expand the application of many of these runs by applying them to different chords. For example, take a run over C minor 7; play the exact same notes, but

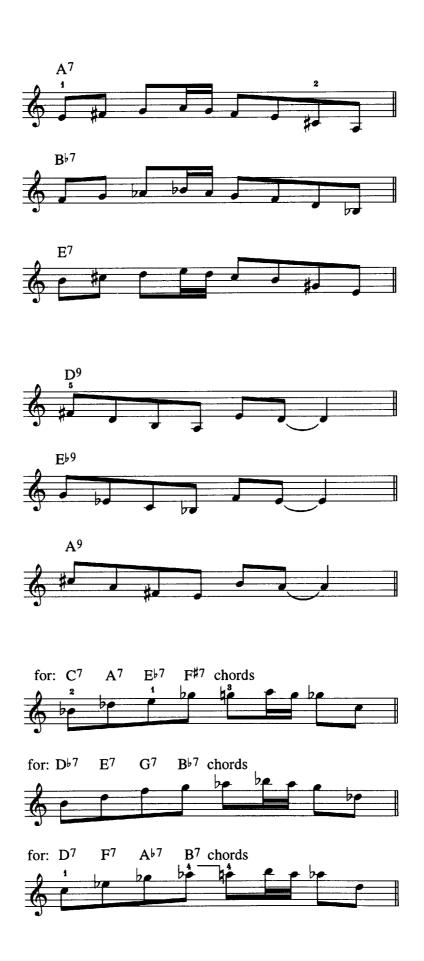
- over an Ab minor 7. You are now playing out of the tonality, but in a uniform and related manner, not as an arbitrary choice of notes. Use this technique to weave in and out of tonalities; it will give your playing a greater degree of tension and release.
- Change a note by a half step or a whole step; go up instead of down, displace a rhythm. This will personalize a run, and make it unique to your style.
- If you've had little experience in improvisation, take a tune and pick a run for each chord in the tune. Consult the Handbook of Chord Substitutions (also published by Ekay Music) for tunes and progressions. Write out a chorus or two in this manner, and you have just "improvised" your first solo!

To sum up, use any window you can find to get into this collection. These runs can stand alone, or can be used as a springboard for your own melodic creations. In any case, there is no substitute for time spent practicing your craft.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

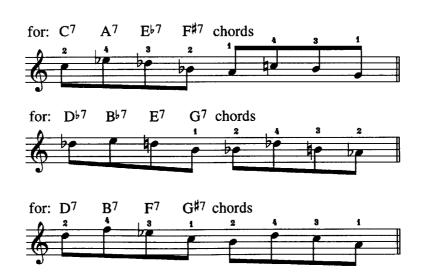
Ke	eyboard Runs:
	For Dominant 7th Chords
	For Major 7th or 6/9 Chords
	For Minor 7th With Extensions85
	For Suspended Chords
	For ii-V and ii-V-I Progressions
	For Altered Dominant 7th Chords
	For Altered Major 7th Chords
	For Combinations Of Chord Qualities

# DOMINANT 7TH





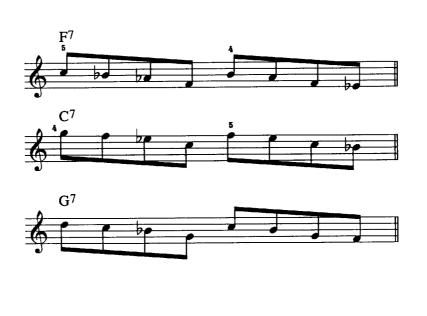




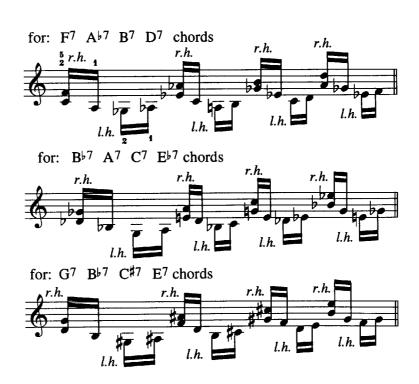










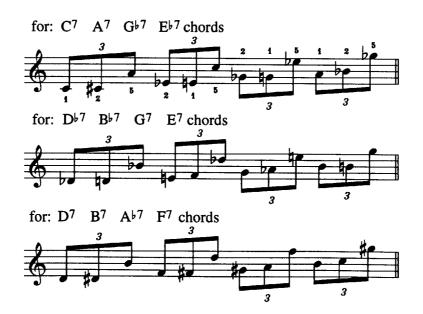




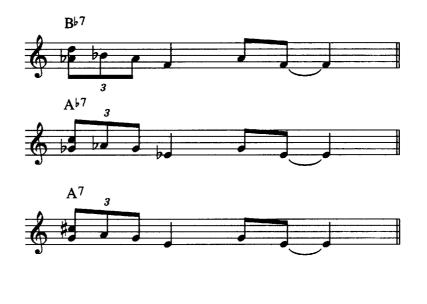








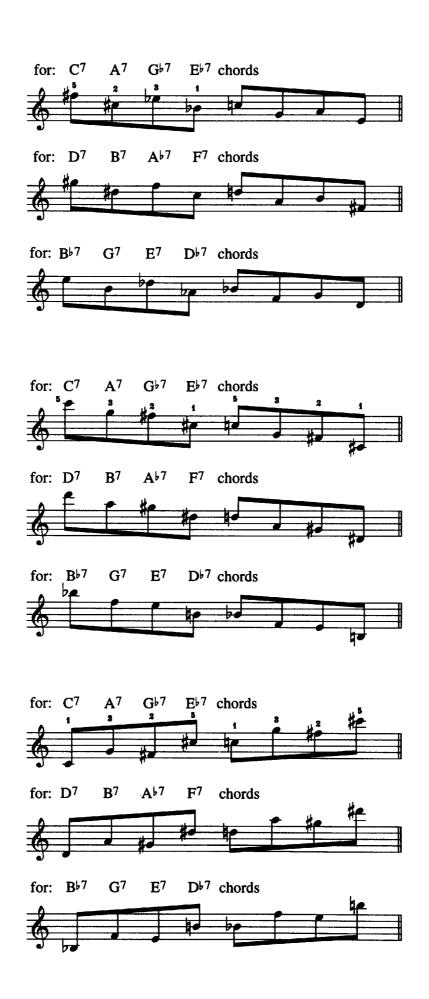


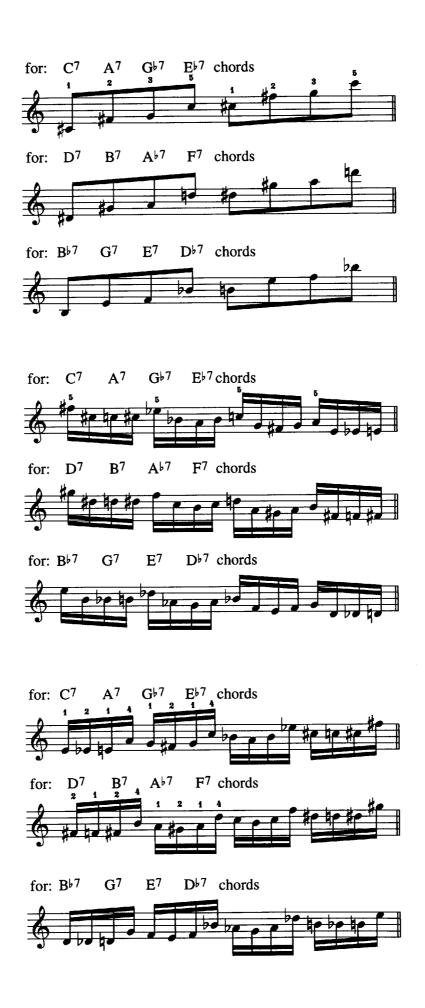








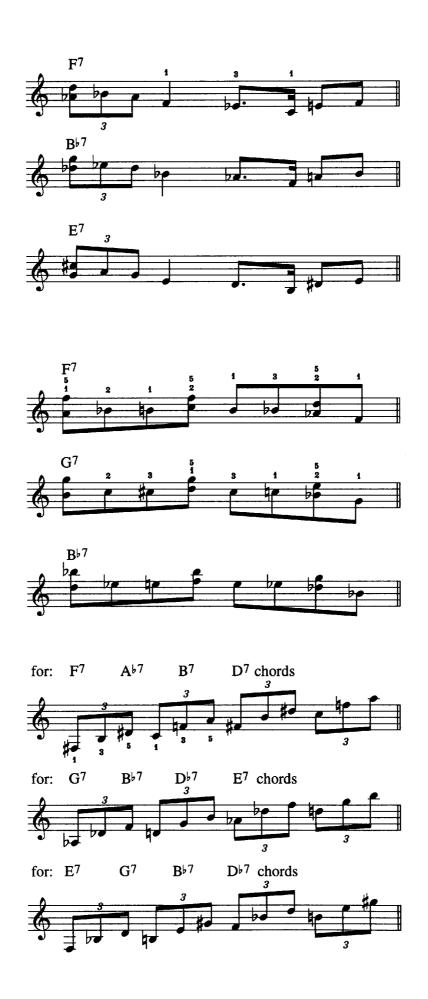


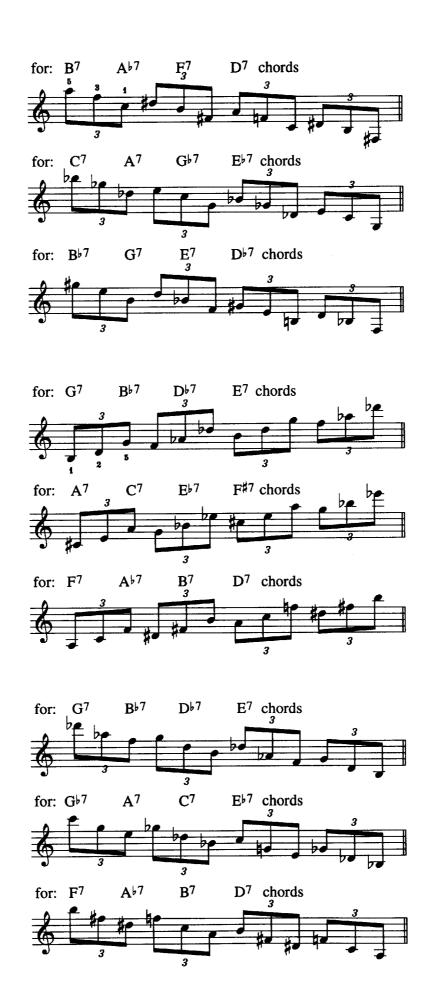




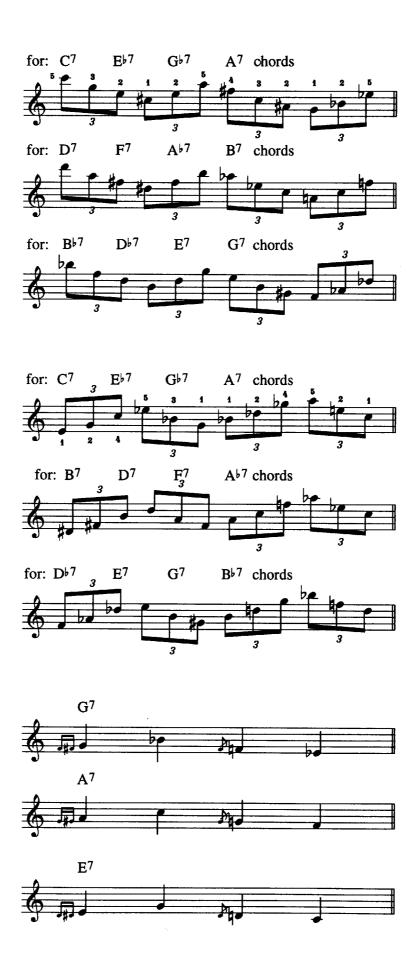




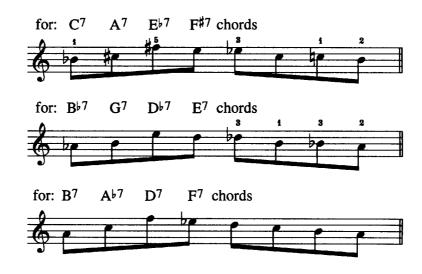




25



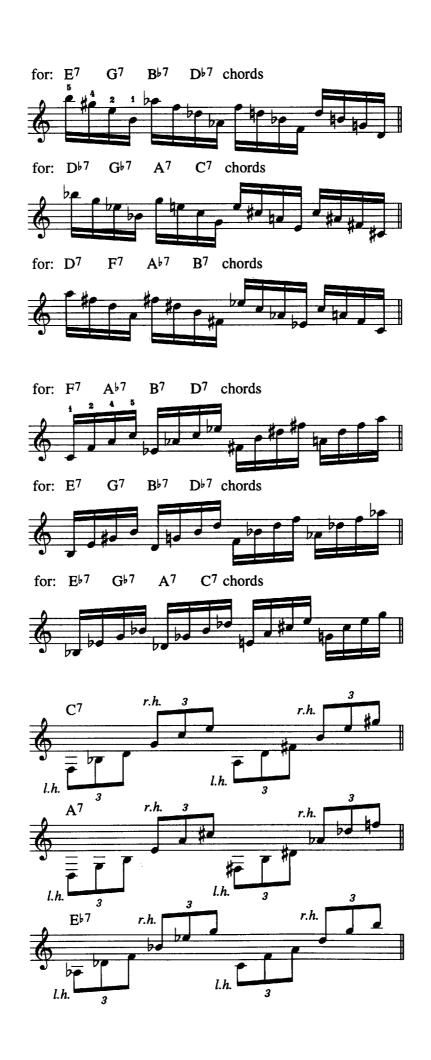






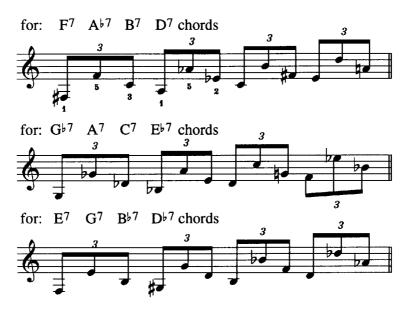






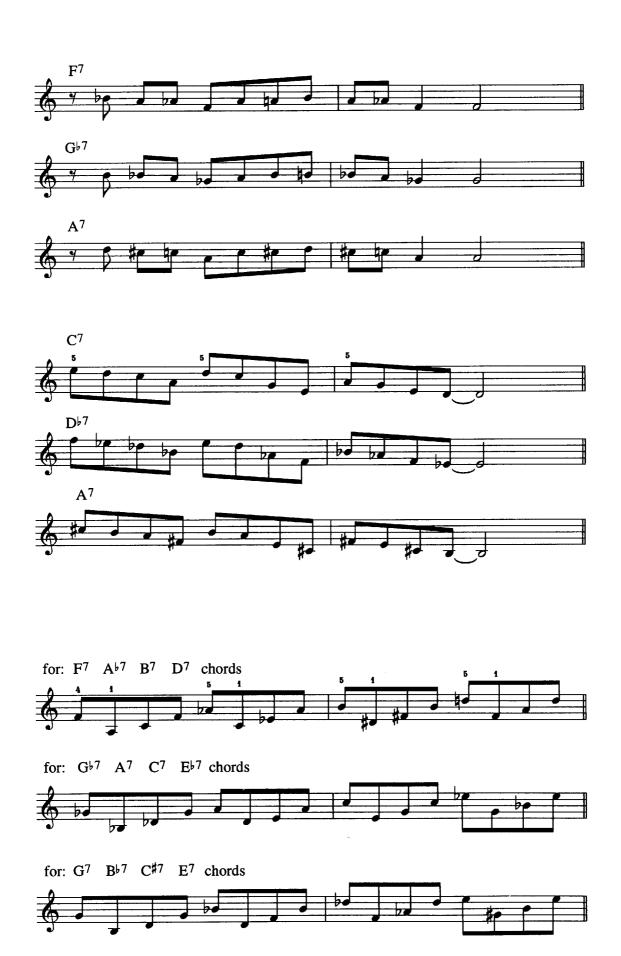


























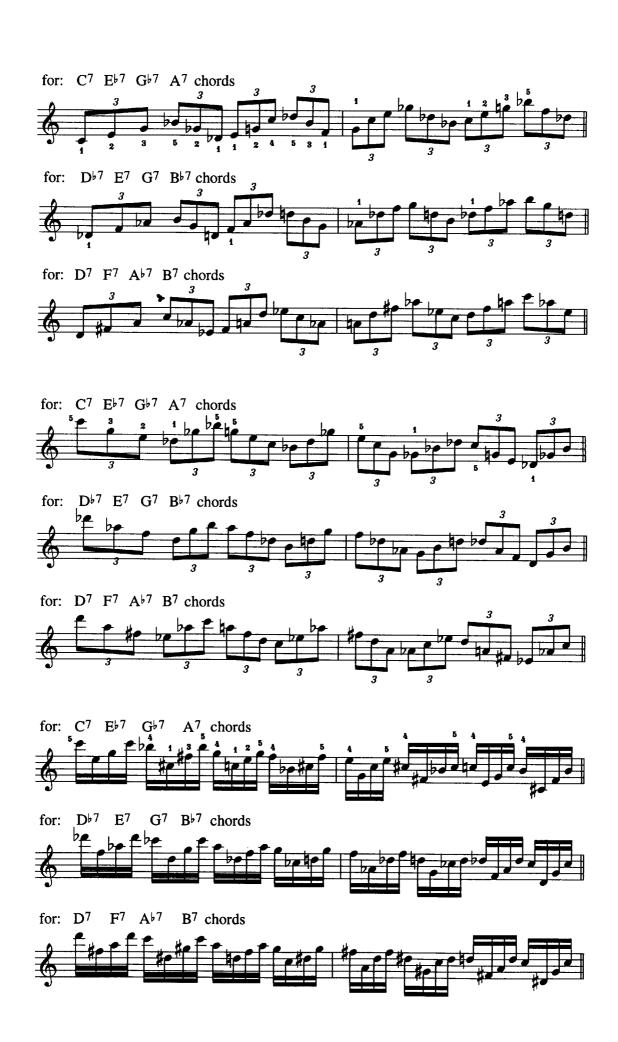




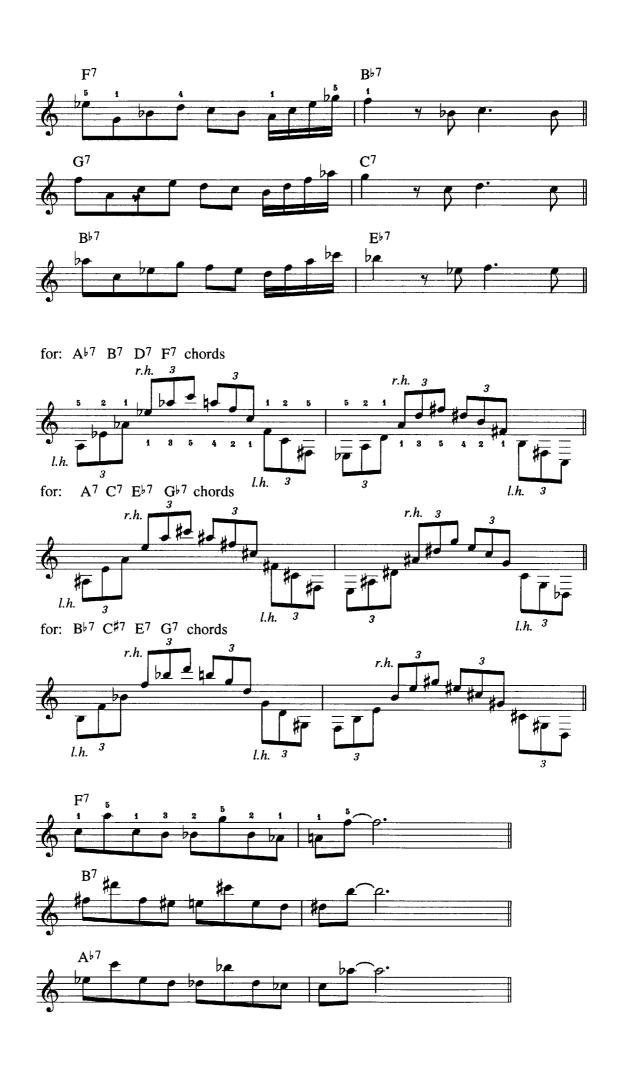




46















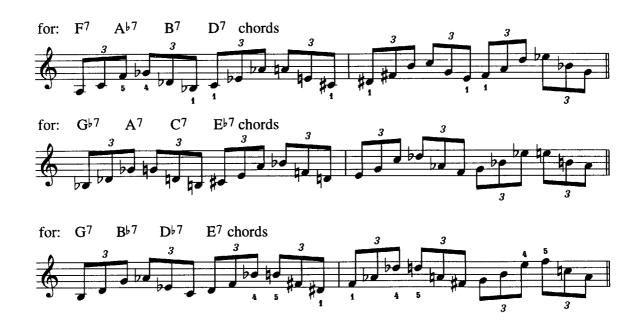








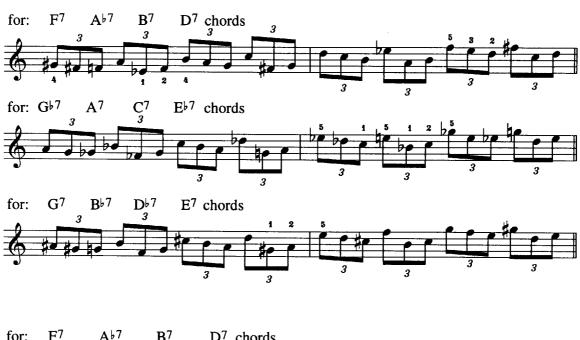


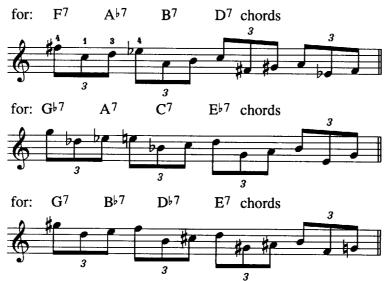


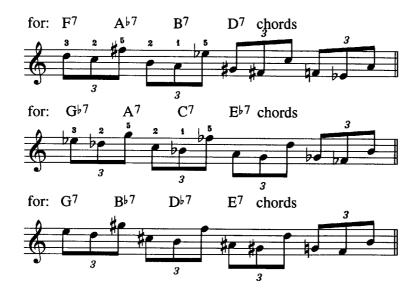






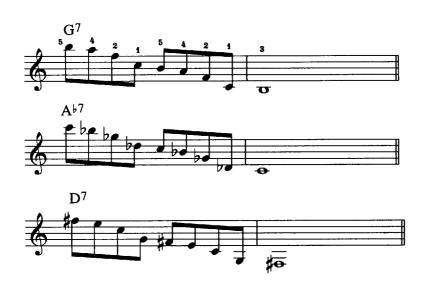






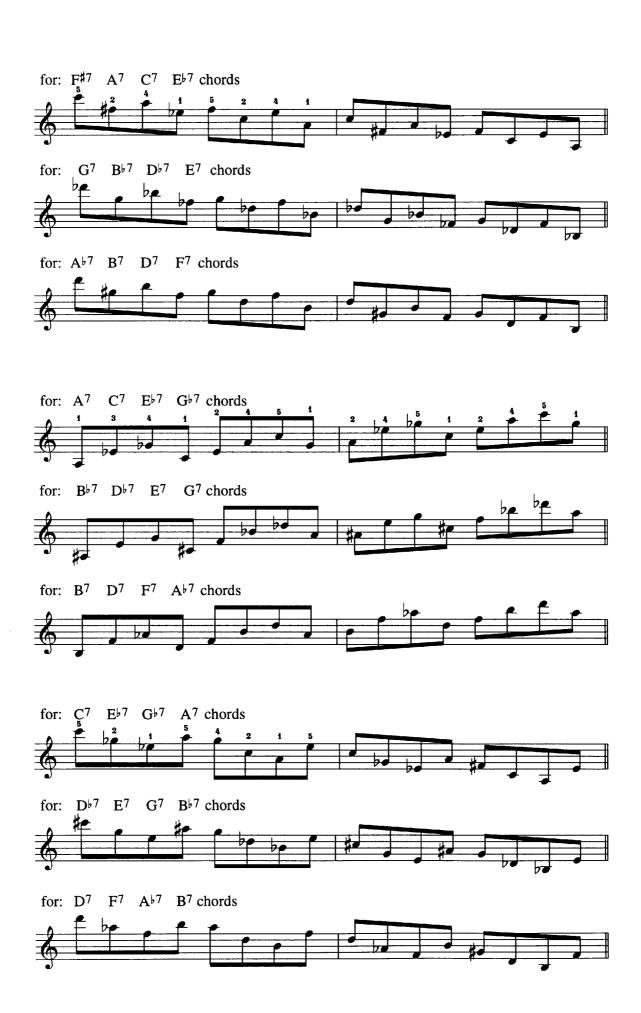






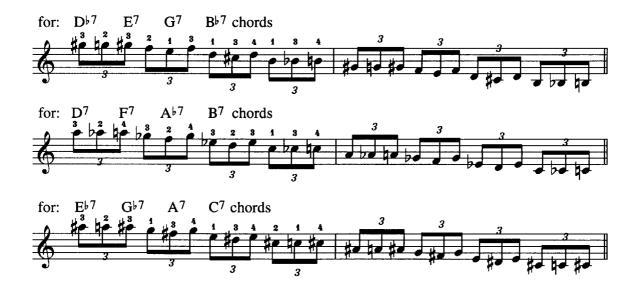


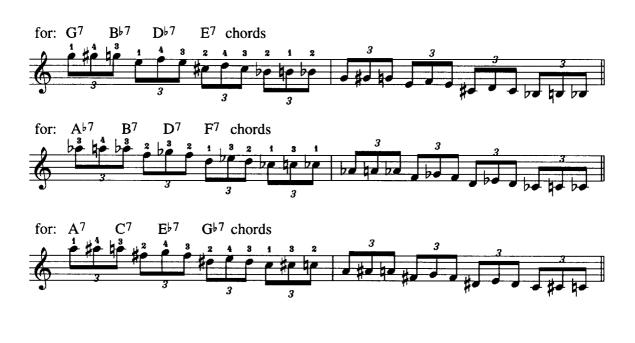




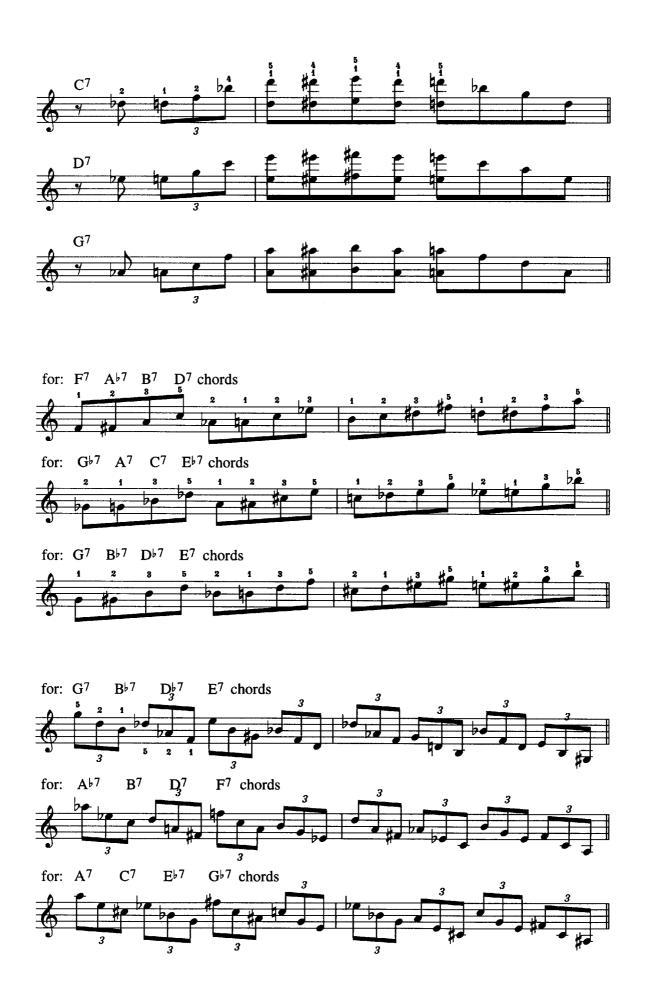






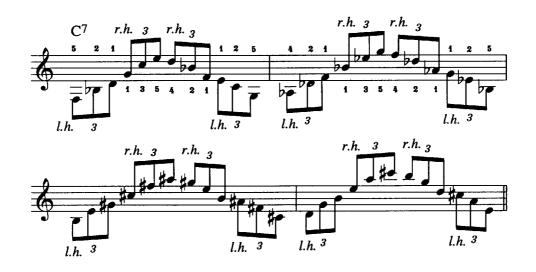


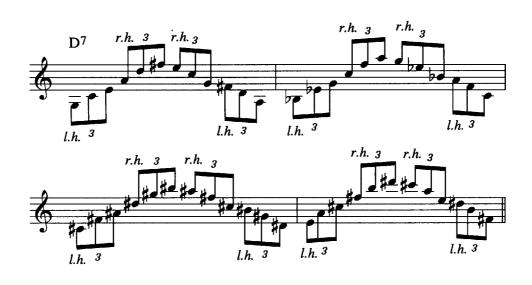


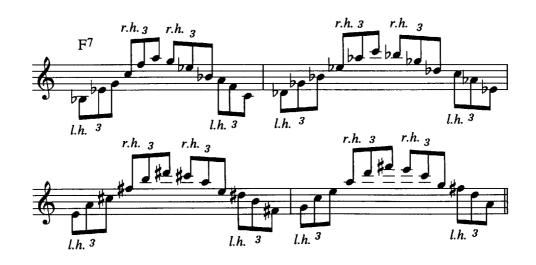




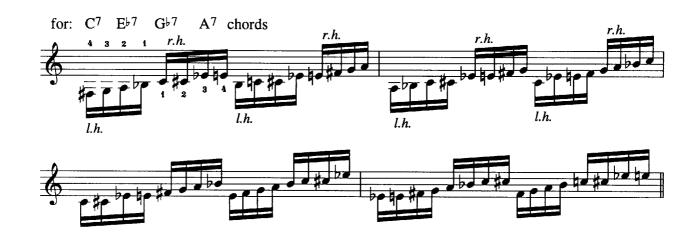




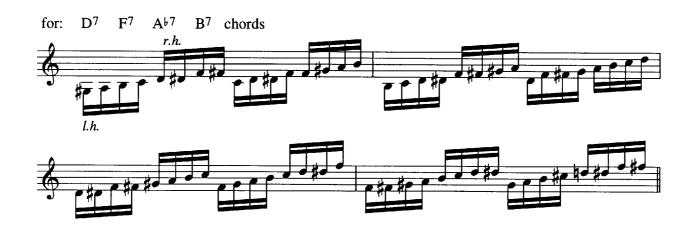


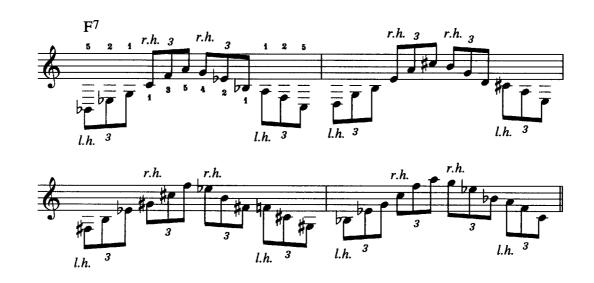


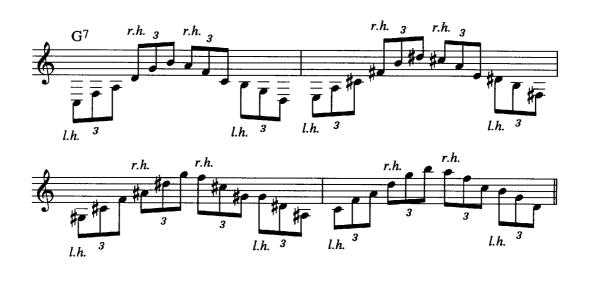
DOMINANT 7TH 69

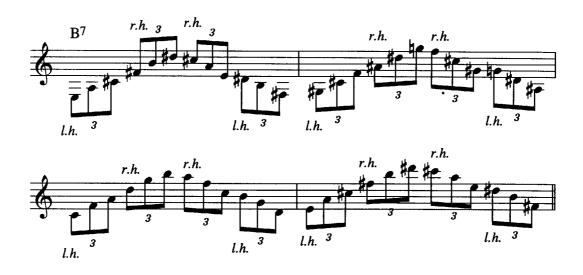


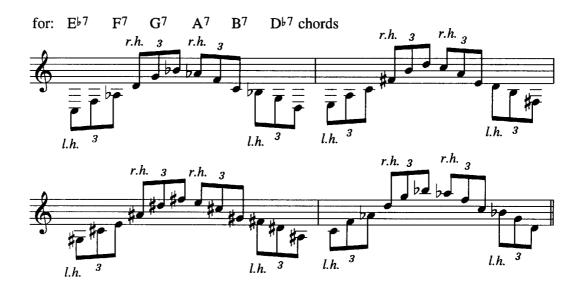


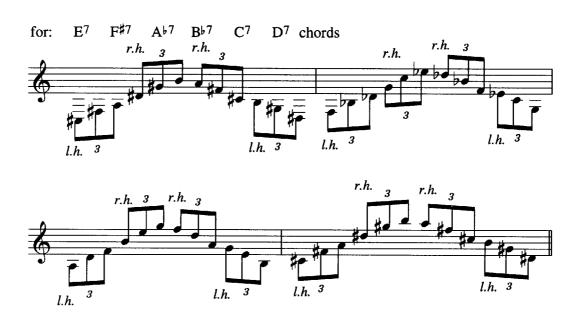


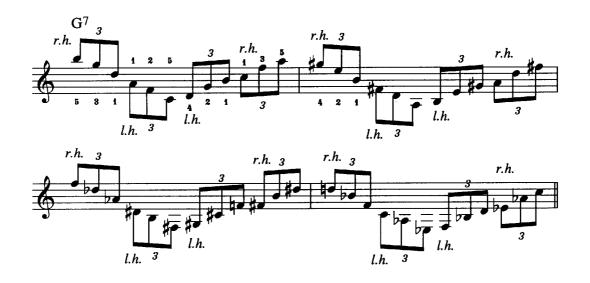




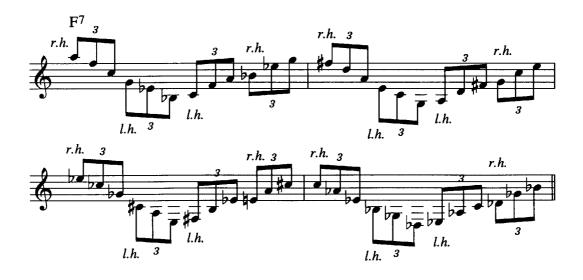








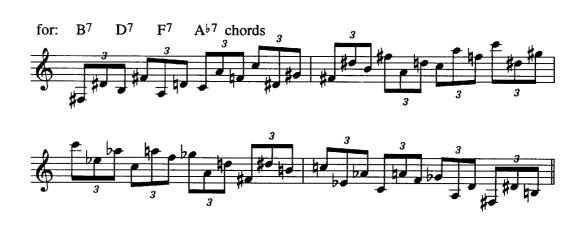


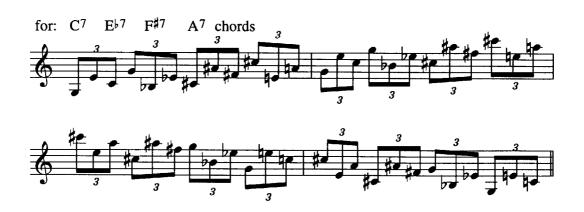


DOMINANT 7TH

**73** 

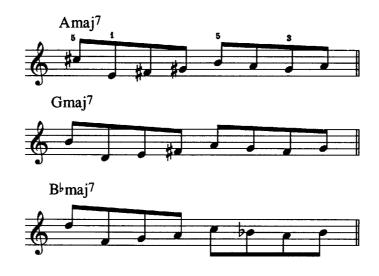


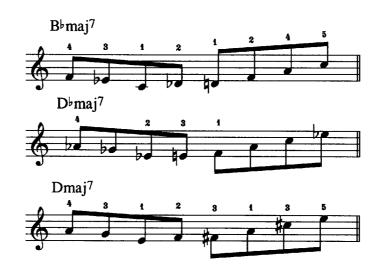


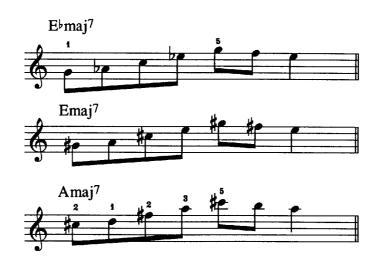




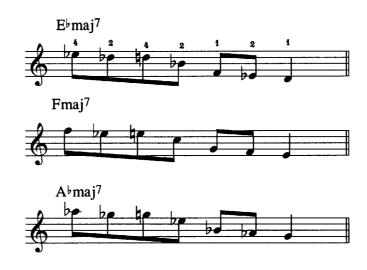
## MAJOR 7TH OR 6/9 CHORDS



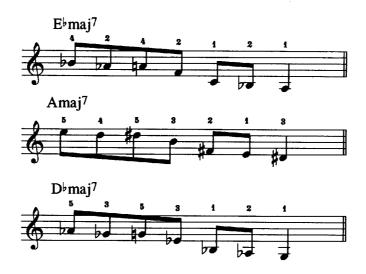


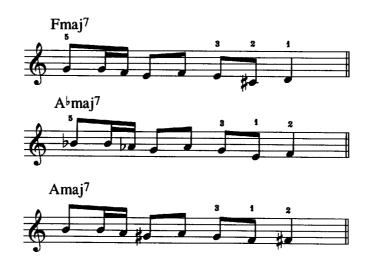


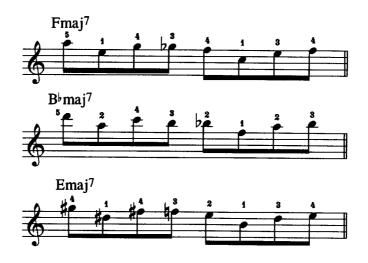


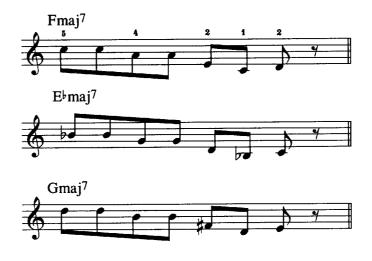


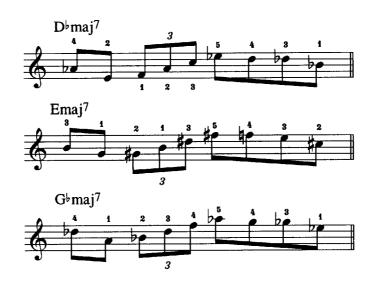




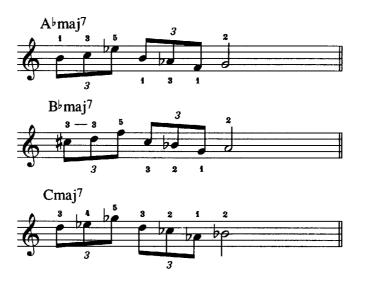


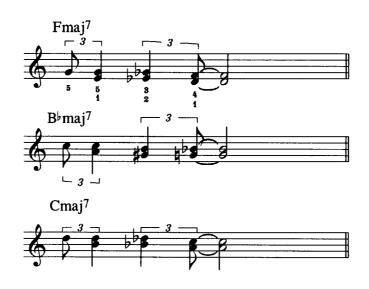


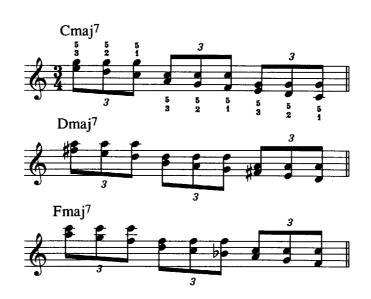


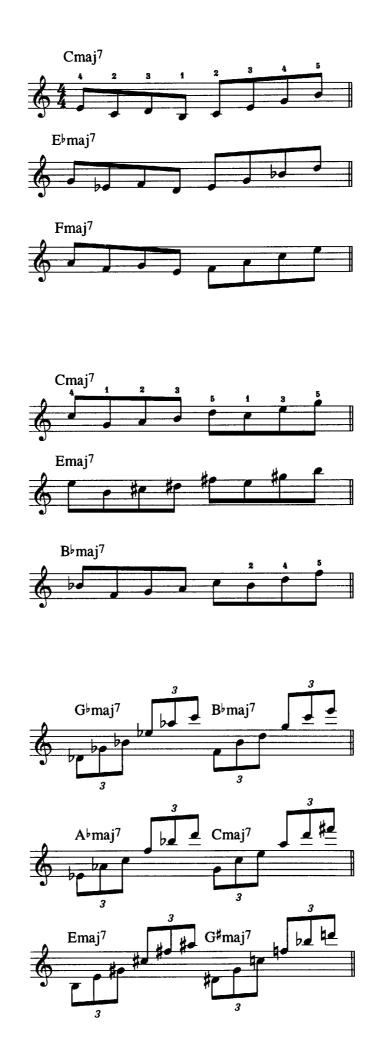


















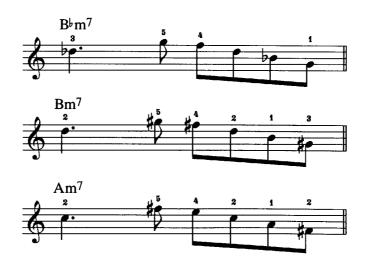


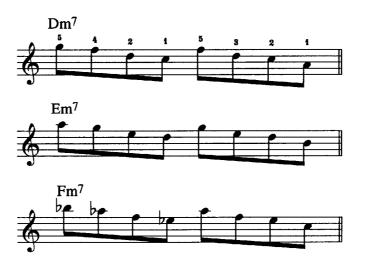


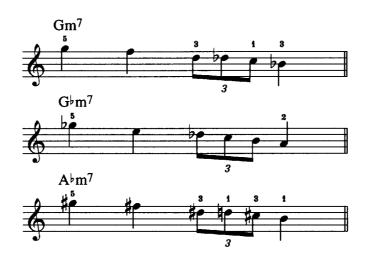
## MINOR 7TH WITH EXTENSIONS

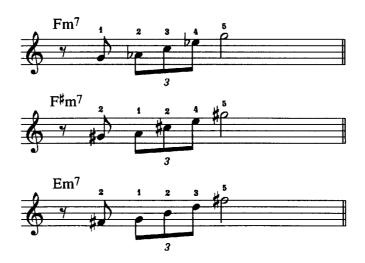


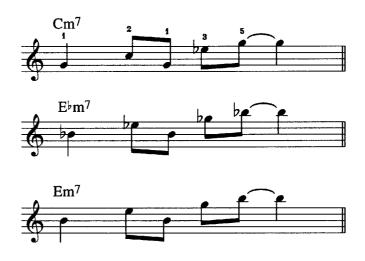






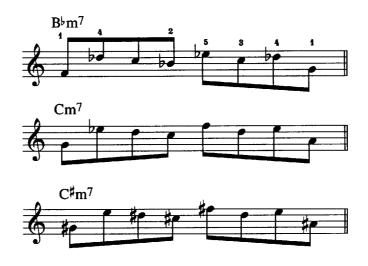










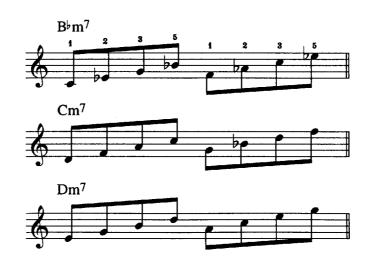




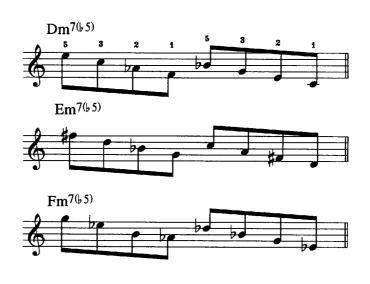












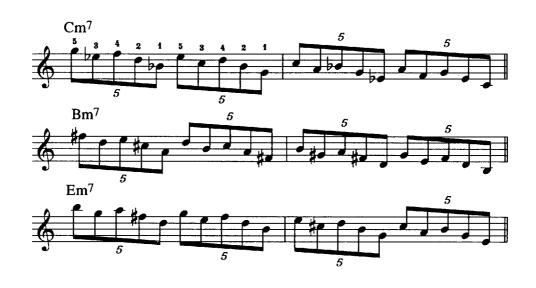


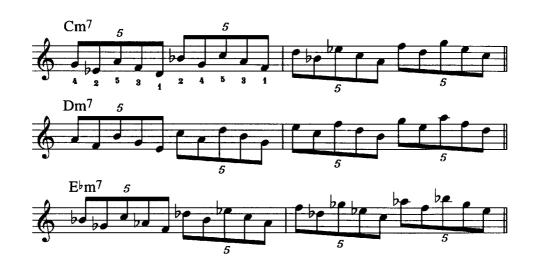




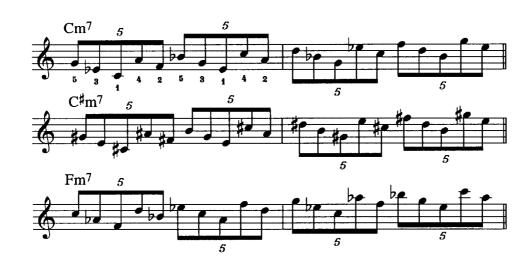










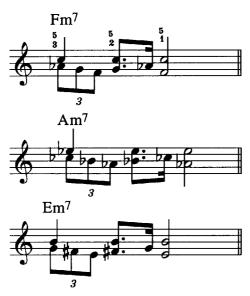


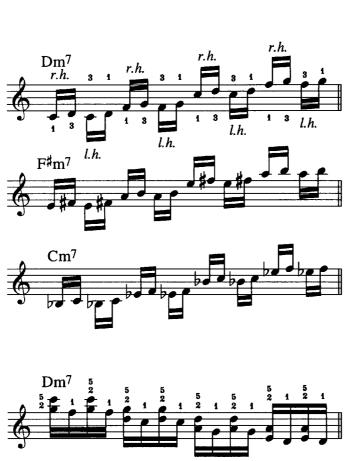








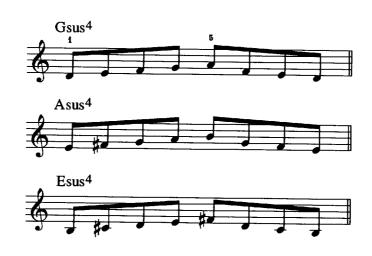


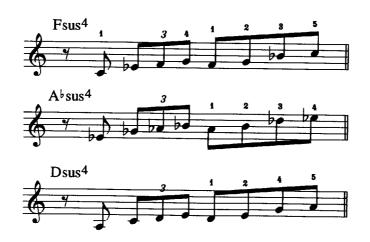




## SUSPENDED CHORDS

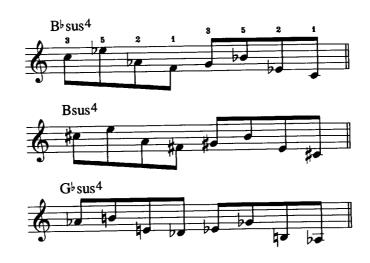




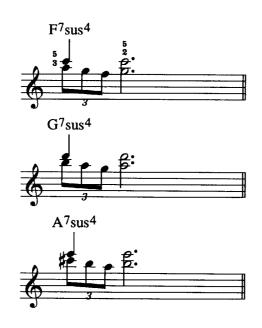




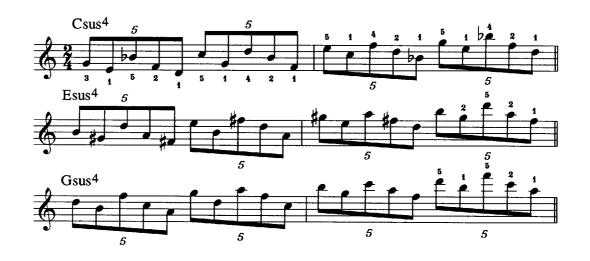


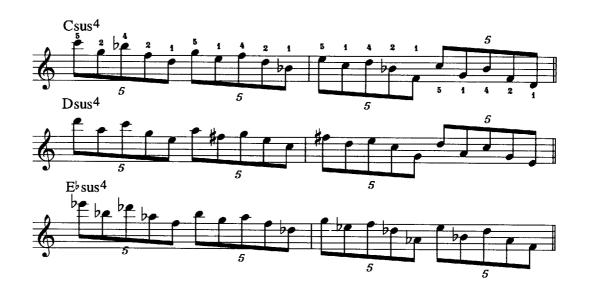


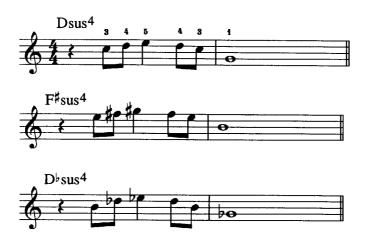












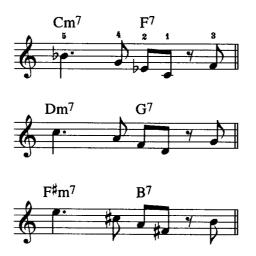


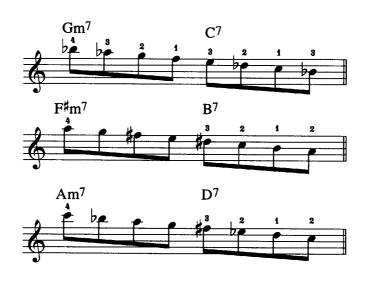


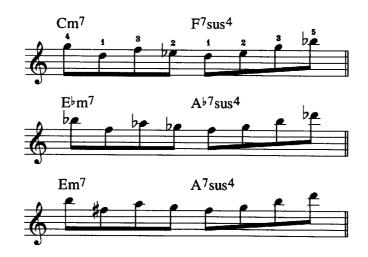


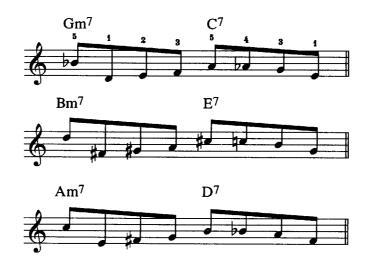


## II-V AND II-V-I PROGRESSIONS





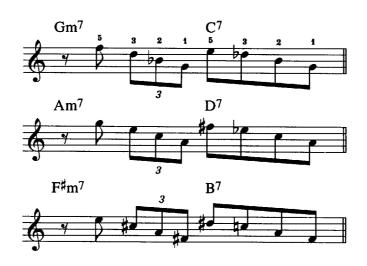






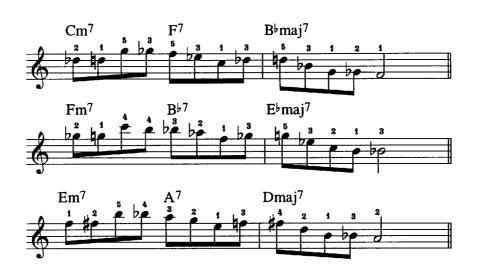


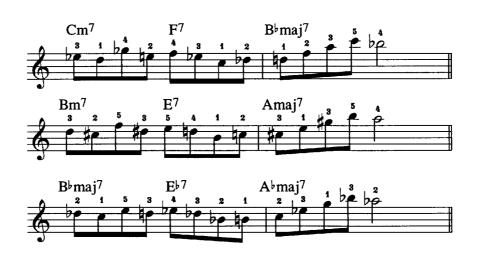


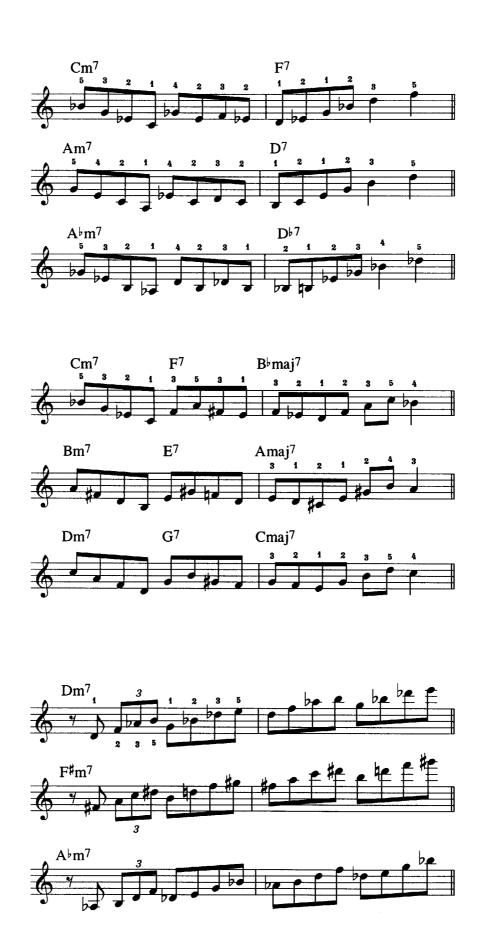








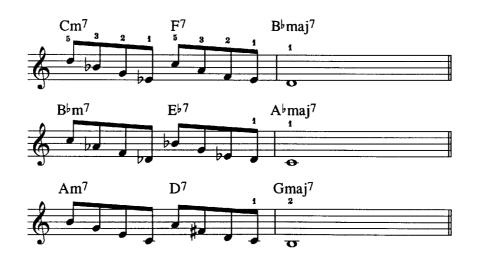






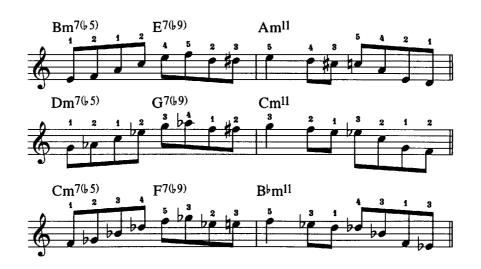


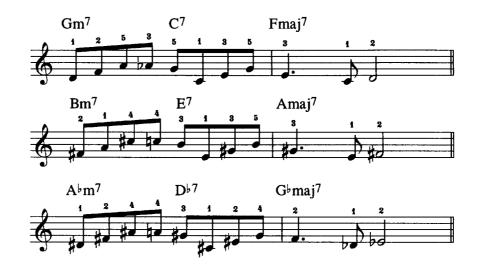














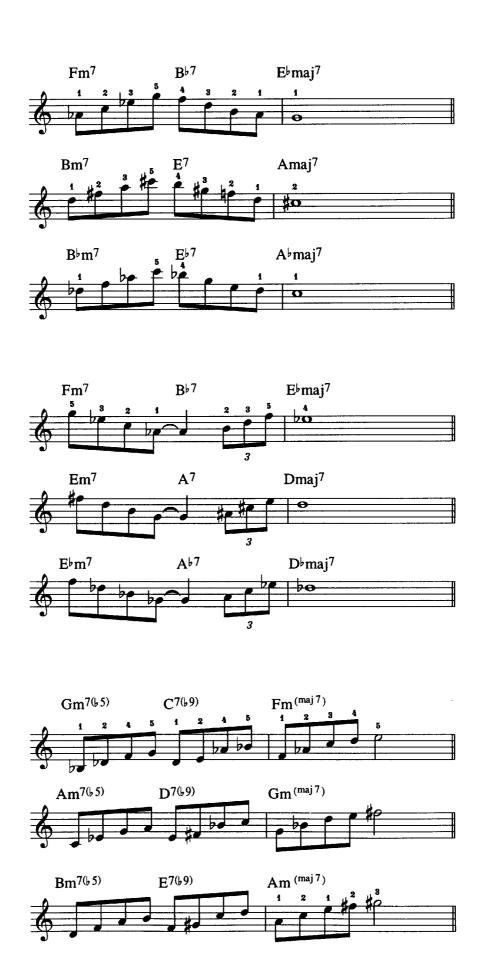


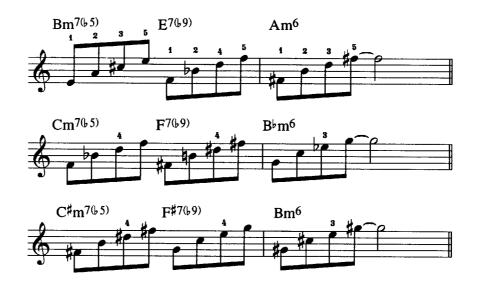














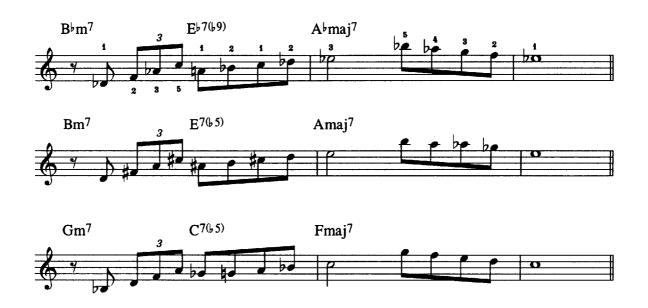












## ALTERED DOMINANT 7TH



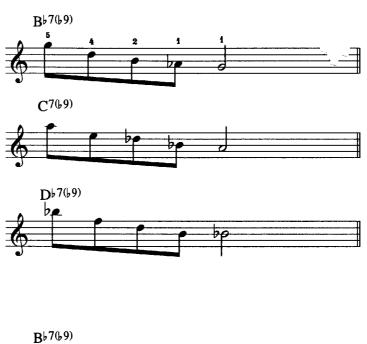








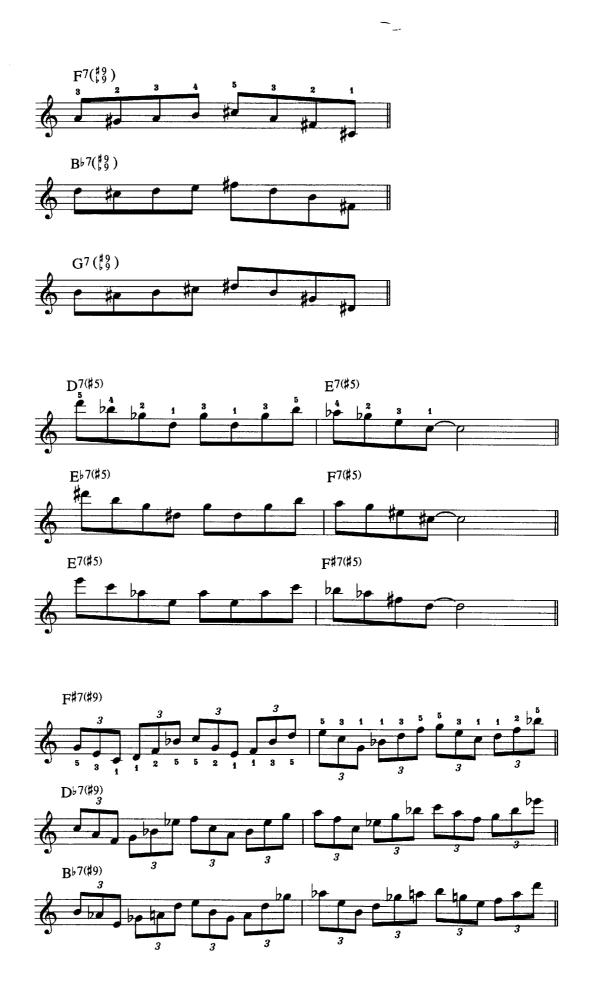






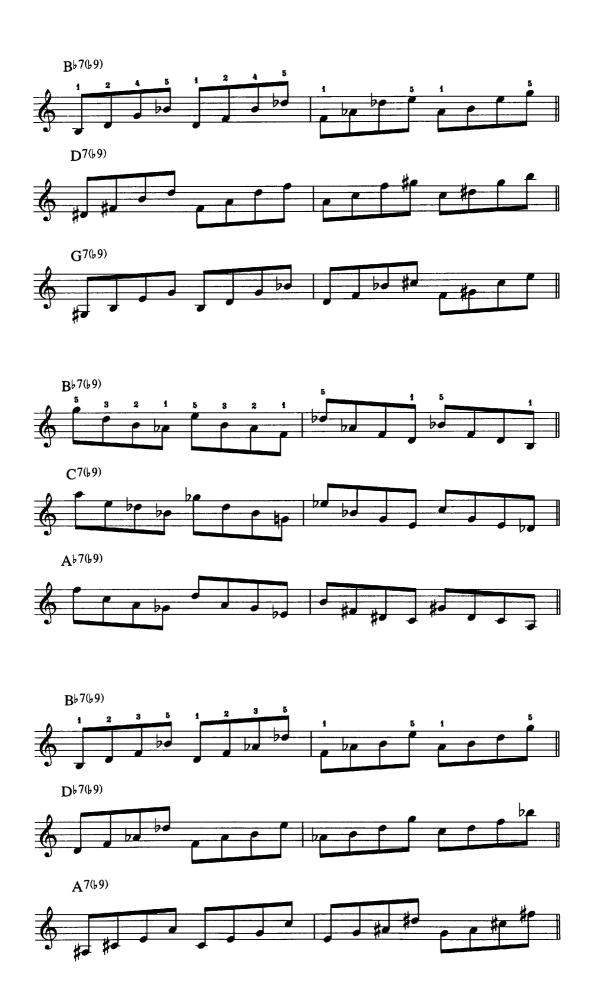




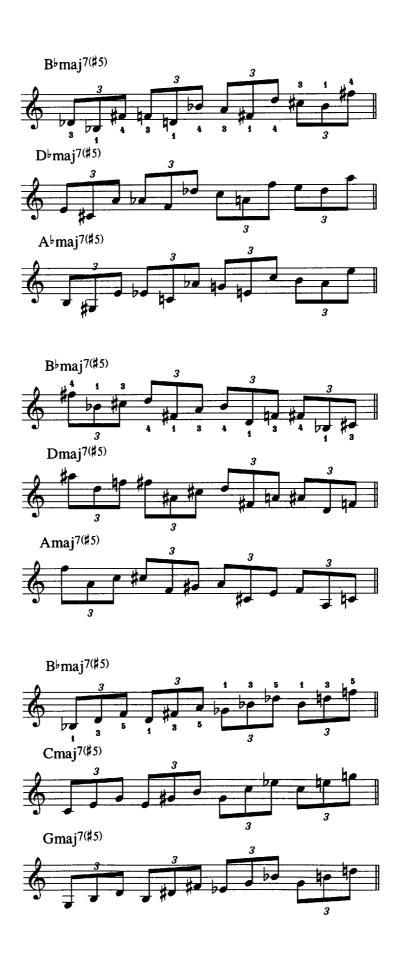


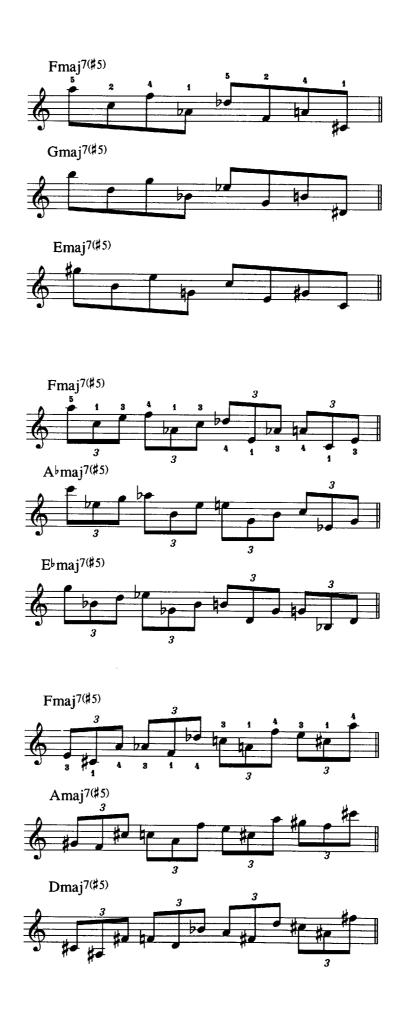


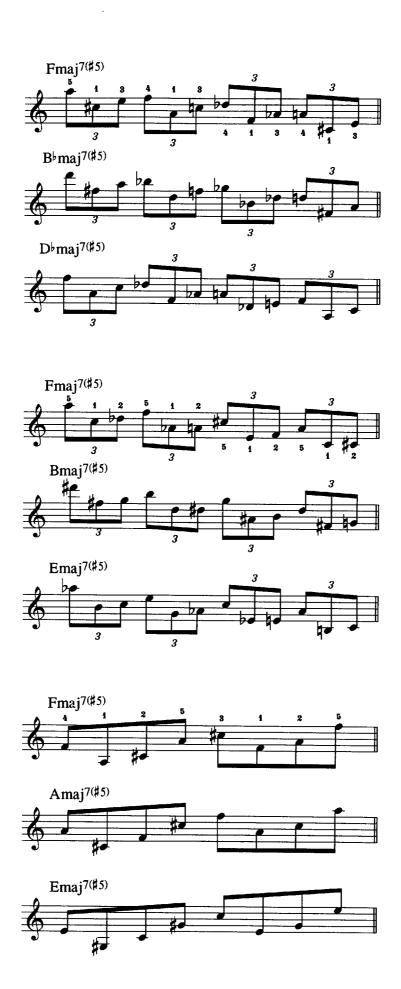




## ALTERED MAJOR 7TH





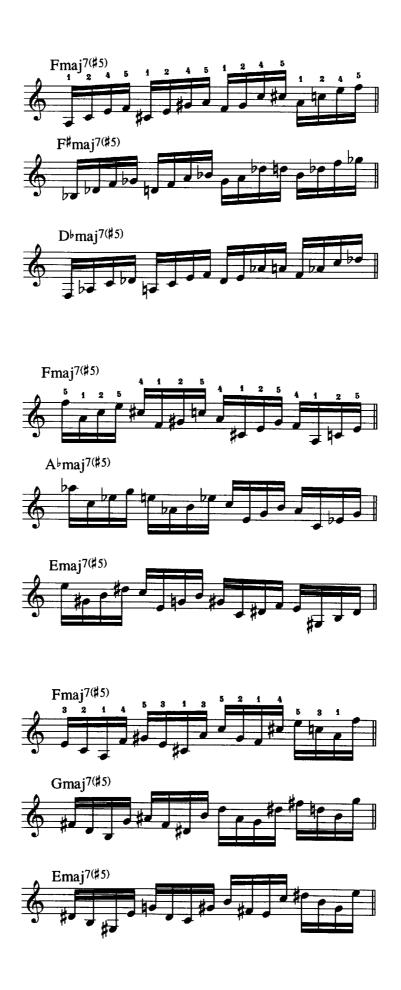




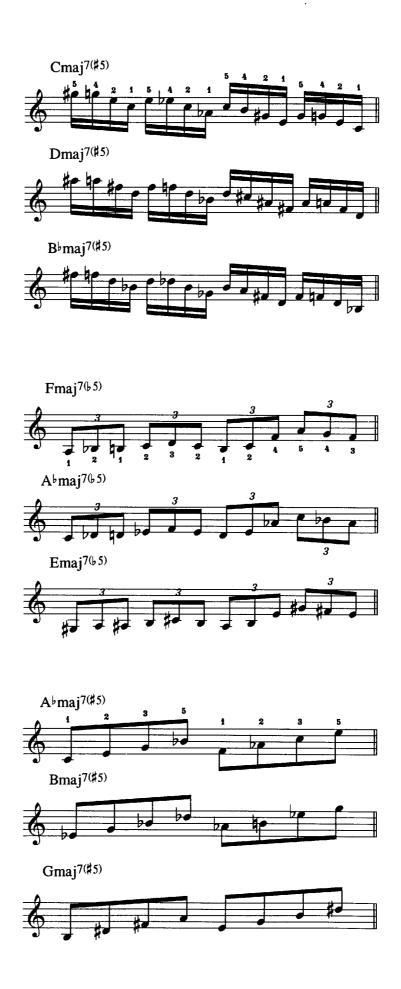


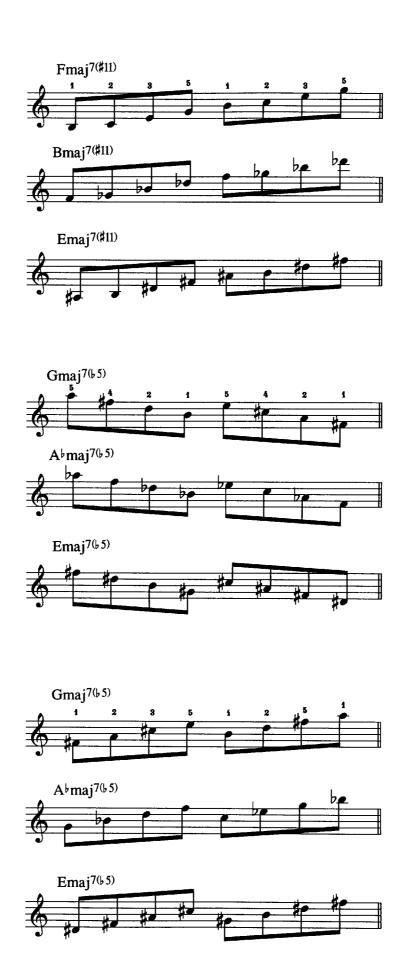










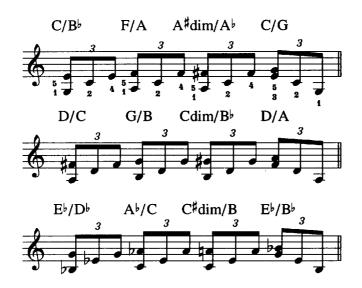


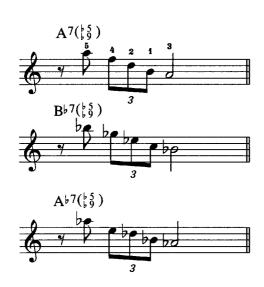


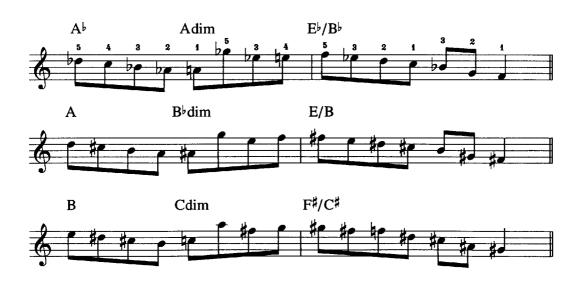




## CHORD COMBINATIONS









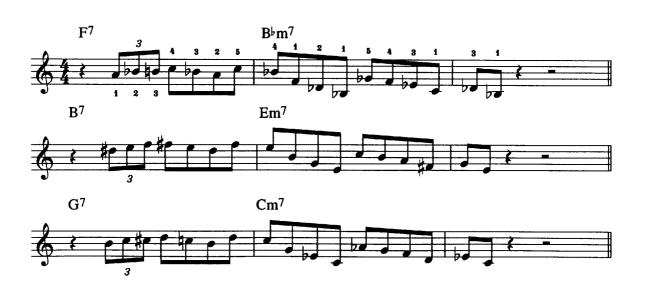


















## ABOUT ANDY LAVERNE

orn in New York City in 1947, Andy LaVerne enrolled at the age of 8 at the Juilliard School of Music as a classical piano student, and con-

tinued his musical education at the New York City High School of Music and Art, Ithaca College, Berklee College of Music, and the New England Conservatory.

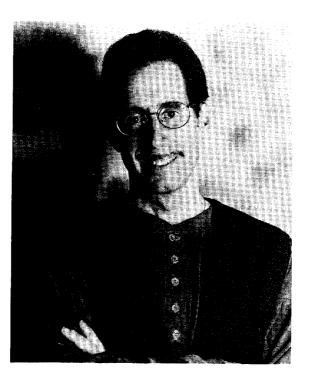
As a teenager, LaVerne discovered jazz by listening to "Monk's Dream" on the radio. His interest in jazz piano eventually led him to Bill Evans, who became his first jazz teacher. (Ironically, LaVerne was the pianist who filled in for the ailing Evans in the final Bill Evans Trio engagement in NYC.) Later, he also studied jazz with Don Friedman, Jackie Byard, and Richard Beirach. He

continued his classical studies with John Ranck, and also studied composition with Karel Husa.

Andy LaVerne's professional career includes three years (1973-1975) with Woody Herman's big band and four years (1977-1980) as pianist, composer and arranger with the Stan Getz Quartet. He has played and recorded with Frank Sinatra, Sonny Stitt, Donald Byrd, John Abercrombie, Miroslav Vitous, Lee Konitz, David Liebman, Joe Farrell, Eddie Harris, Scott Hamilton, Eddie Daniels, Dizzy Gillespie, Chick Corea, Bob Brookmeyer, Mel Lewis, Mel Torme, Bill Watrous, Shelly Manne, Eddie Gomez, Gerry Mulligan, Joe Lovano, Toots Theilmans, Kenny Barron, Marian McPartland, Lionel Hampton, Paquito D'Rivera, Roy Hargrove, Michael Brecker, Elvin Jones, Benny Golson, and numerous other top jazz performers. In 1982 LaVerne was invited to play on Bill Evans—A Tribute (Palo Alto) recording, along with Teddy Wilson, George Shearing, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea, McCoy Tyner, John Lewis and other top pianists. His collaborations with Chick Corea resulted in the highly-acclaimed album, Andy LaVerne

Plays The Music Of Chick Corea (Jazzline).

In addition to numerous recordings, he has devoted time and energy in the educational field.



His output in this area includes the instructional videos "Andy LaVerne's Guide to Modern Jazz Piano," "Jazz Piano Standards," "Guide to Modern Jazz Piano, Vol. 2" and "In Concert," a live duet video recording guitarist John Abercrombie. All have been released by Homespun Video Tapes. Handbook of Chord Substitutions, a book which details techniques of reharmonization, is also available through Ekay Music, Inc. "Countdown To Giant Steps," (featuring John Patitucci) a book and 2 CD play-along is

a graduated study for playing the John Coltrane changes (Aebersold Jazz). "The Music Of Andy LaVerne," a collection of over 50 LaVerne originals, has recently been published by SteepleChase Productions. "Tunes You Thought You Knew," a book and companion CD play-along (featuring Rufus Reid), was released in 1999 (Aebersold Jazz). "The Music Of Chick Corea," a book and CD play-along (featuring John Patitucci), is due to be released as of this writing (Hal Leonard).

Andy LaVerne is the recipient of five Jazz Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts. He has also been awarded several ASCAP composer awards as well as a "Meet The Composer" grant. When not touring North America, Europe, Scandinavia, and Russia playing concerts, clubs, and giving clinics, he is a frequent contributor to many publications, including *Piano Today*. He has served as an adjunct professor of music at The University of Bridgeport, and The Mannes College of Music, and is currently on the faculty of The Hartt College of Music and The Jamey Aebersold Summer Jazz Clinics.



## TONS OF RUNS

For The Contemporary Pianist

By Andy LaVerne

If you want to invest your keyboard playing with modern, up-to-the-minute sounds used by Andy LaVerne, Chick Corea, Herbie Hancock, McCoy Tyner, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, John Abercrombie and the cutting-edge musicians of tomorrow, this book will be invaluable!

Written by jazz pianist Andy LaVerne, who is celebrated for his interesting sense of harmony and sophisticated style, it shows you hundreds upon hundreds of keyboard runs—the streams of notes jazz artists use to glide across the keyboard with interesting melodic touches and chord colors.

Andy wrote the book on chord substitutions, and whether performing as Stan Getz's pianist, or in recordings with Chick Corea, Dizzy Gillespie, Elvin Jones, Gerry Mulligan, Frank Sinatra and others, his professionalism and fascinating variations on the standards have truly set him apart. As a teacher and workshop leader, Andy LaVerne has helped thousands of students become better at performing. With this first-of-a-kind guide to contemporary piano runs and riffs, he will help you too!

These runs are shown with the chords and chord progressions that make them work best—on seventh chords, on diminished chords, on minor chords, on altered chords and more. Some are written to work with the most common chord progressions, and some are designed to fit just one chord. Some will work with almost any chord at all—and Andy tells you which ones!

You'll get each run in several keys, with chord applications and appropriate fingering tips. Practice them slowly for developing great jazz-style finger dexterity! Then, bring them up to speed so you can insert them into your own improvisations. You'll discover exactly how contemporary musicians get those great, unusual sounds. Every page is a learning experience! And you'll gain a whole new repertoire or runs, licks and fills—remarkable sounds and colors to make your playing richer than ever!

