



JAZZ PIANO SCHOOL

Learning Freedom

THE CORE 4

Jazz Piano School Success

BLUEPRINT

THE CORE 4

The Core 4 is based upon proven language learning blocks I discovered while in a French class.

These 4 categories allow you to learn jazz piano tools and take them through a sequence that gives you complete freedom over that tool which can then be implemented into any tune.

After successfully learning hundreds of jazz piano tools myself using the Core 4 as well as thousands of my students, the data was unarguable.

Jazz piano tools are needed to learn how to play tunes with spontaneous freedom and build you jazz "house".

To learn the language of jazz and be successful, you need to use the Core 4 process.

(Watch video to understand golf analogy and picture below.)



THEORY

Understanding WHAT a tool does and is used for



TECHNIQUE

Practice the mechanical use of the tool



IMPROVISATION

Practicing the use of the tool in multiple scenarios



REPERTOIRE

Using the tool for spontaneous creation

How do you quickly move a jazz piano tool through the Core 4?



THEORY

- > What is the tool used for?
- > How does it work?
- > When is it used?



TECHNIQUE

- > Practice use the tool in its basic form.
- > Go through the motions and get comfortable.
- > The more repetitions the better.



IMPROVISATION

- > Use the tool in different scenarios.
- > Practice using the tool in unknown situations.
- > Get uncomfortable with the tool.



REPertoire

- > Implement the tool into real life scenarios.
- > Use the tool for actual spontaneous creation.
- > Combine the tool with other tools.
- > Use it naturally to produce a desired result.

Jazz Piano Example Using Tritone Substitution Tool

THEORY

- Learn what a tritone substitution is.
- Learn what a tritone substitution does.
- Learn when to use a tritone substitution.

TECHNIQUE

- Practice playing tritone subs for all dominant chords alone.
- Practice different voicings of tritone subs.
- Practice harmonic movement of tritone subs.

IMPROVISATION

- Practice using tritone sub in V-I progressions.
- Practice using tritone sub in II-V-I progressions.
- Practicing improvising over top of tritone sub progressions.

REPERTOIRE

- Implement a tritone sub into any and all tunes.
- Spontaneously use a tritone sub for a reharmon in a tune.
- Spontaneously improvise over a tritone reharmon in a tune.
- Spontaneously use a tritone sub to comp with a tune.

The background of the top half of the page is an abstract composition of various shades of teal and green. On the left side, there is a stylized illustration of a hand holding a pen, with the pen tip pointing towards the center. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

**To prepare for video #3 of
the training take the Stage
Assessment below to find
out what Stage of our
Success Path Curriculum
you are currently in!**

Success Path Blueprint Assessment

WORKBOOK



Stage 0

Laying the Foundation

This stage is for people brand new to jazz. You're going to spend time learning the most basic elements of music & jazz and how they pertain to information in the future. These elements will prepare you for all the information you receive on your journey. These general music basics help you understand all the other jazz harmony, theory, and improv you're going to learn and this stage will lay down a solid foundation for the rest of your life.

This is also a great time to gain clarity around your goals. What do you want to accomplish as a jazz pianist? But most important...why? The "why" will keep you going through this journey and will help your motivation stay high!



Stage 1

Building the Frame

If you're in this stage, then you already have a little bit of a foundation, but it might not be much, AND it might contain holes. But that's OKAY! You're going to find that you contain holes in your playing at any stage you fit into.

In this stage we start to dig much more into jazz. You'll learn your first tune, you'll start improvising, you'll start swinging and learning about progressions.

Besides the fun stuff above, it is very important to gain a clear and in-depth understanding of jazz harmony as it will allow you to easily learn advanced theory and harmonic concepts in later stages.

We also begin to explore very basic yet powerful improvisation methods that will make or break all of your improvisation in the future.



Stage 2

The Inner Guts

Electricity, Plumbing and Insulation

You have a very solid foundation and a frame...now it's time to get to the good stuff!

But very IMPORTANT: make sure you have the first two stages down cold or else everything from here on out will not work for you.

We dive much deeper into isolation of your jazz voicings, bass lines, two hand voicing strategies, solo piano methods, and bebop improvisation language with the use of approach notes. Ladies and gentlemen...this is where things really start to pick up and get juicy!



Stage 3

Sealing it Up!

Drywall, Paint, & Flooring

To be honest, rarely do students find themselves in this stage right off the bat. And if they do, there are usually big holes in their playing or knowledge of jazz.

Think about the "Drywall & Painting" stage of a house. So many OTHER things have been done PRIOR to this stage in the building of a house. If the foundation, frame, or innards aren't set up properly, everything else will be a disaster. Double check you have everything down cold in the previous stages before starting here.

I like to call this stage "The Point Of No Return". We're sealing up the walls and painting. No going back.

But if you are ready to start here then you're in for a treat because we open up reharmon strategies to you. Why is this important? Because it allows you to use all the previous tools you've learned in thousands of different ways...yes...thousands. Incredible, right?! We also explore goodies such as the ballad, block chords, and more.



Stage 4

Furnishing the House

This is another turning point in our "Success Path" for 2 reasons.

1. At this point you should feel very confident about playing tunes in front of your friends and family and can calmly call yourself a jazz pianist without hesitation or embarrassment.
2. You're still missing VERY crucial PRO components that will completely transform your playing and allow you to achieve a true PRO sound.

But guess what!? That is all taught in this stage. These components consist of drop 2 voicings with all voicings, isolation and execution of extensions in your chords, modern voicing set ups, advanced two hand voicing methods, and modern improv tools.

Pretty awesome, right?!



Stage 5

The Finishing Touches

Plants, Paintings, Pillows

Congrats! You have already been playing for a long time and now it's time to put the finishing touches on your playing. At stage 5 you are truly perfecting your craft. You can essentially do everything at a high level and now are putting the minute details into the general categories of jazz in order to be a complete player. We explore more conceptual based concepts in this stage to improve your mental approach and mastery of the piano.

Let us know which stage you are at inside the
JAZZ PIANO SCHOOL Facebook Group, and
buckle your seatbelt for your journey!