

Chord Tones

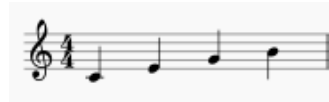
When learning to improvise, you quickly realize there are unlimited possibilities for playing melodies. Consequently, it is important to limit the number of melodic choices. We have a concept that will help us familiarize ourselves with any song: Chord Tones.

Chord Tones

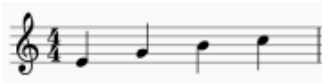
When we refer to chord tones, we are referring to the 1-3-5-7. So, here are some patterns to use that will greatly increase your facility and familiarity with any song. For the examples below we will use a C major 7 chord.

Ascending

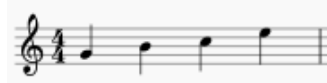
Ascending from Root (1-3-5-7)



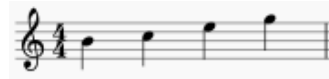
Ascending from 3rd (3-5-7-1)



Ascending from 5th (5-7-1-3)



Ascending from 7th (7-1-3-5)

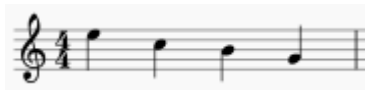


Descending

Descending from Root (1-7-5-3)



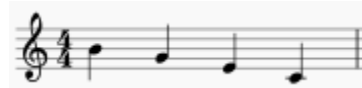
Descending from 3rd (3-1-7-5)



Descending from 5th (5-3-1-7)



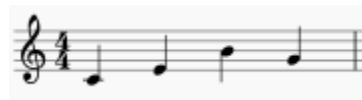
Descending from 7th (7-5-3-1)



Order Change

One great option is to change the order of our chord tones.

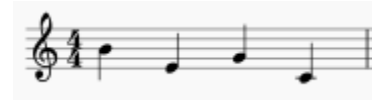
1-3-7-5



3-1-5-7



7-3-5-1



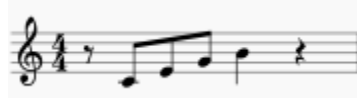
Rhythmic Variety

Another option to add variety and flavor to improvising using chord tones is to add rhythmic variety. Here's one strategy: Try starting on every eighth note of a bar.

Beat 1



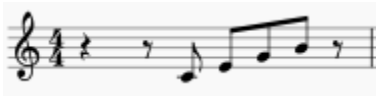
And of 1



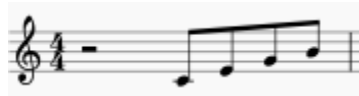
Beat 2



And of Beat 2



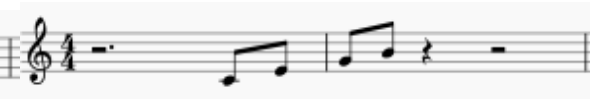
Beat 3



And of 3



Beat 4



And of 4

