

Red River Valley Improvisation Exercise

G D7 G G

Knowing the notes (chord members) in your chords is really important for improvising. In this version, the rhythm of the melody is written out using percussion notation and the chord symbols are in their normal position above the staff. The rhythm is there for you, but you choose the notes. Chord members are in parentheses. For example, the G chord consists of (G B D). G B and D are members of the G chord. Play any "one" chord member on each of the "melody notes". This is a fun way to improvise. It may take some time and practice to get used to this method. Once you get the hang of it, you can use it in most other tunes. You might even have room to write your version out. Print out another copy if you want to try a different set of notes. A sparse LH is provided to add the tonic. Add the LH when you are comfortable with the notes you have chosen for the RH.

D7 G C Am G D

8 G G C G E7

12 A7 D G C G Em Am D G