

How To Improvise

A Basic Introduction

Improvisation is about creating music on the spot, by yourself, or while playing with others. It is about discovering the simplicity of harmony and playing the music inside you.

Let's learn to play and improvise over a well known tune, "When The Saints Go Marching In" It is in the ukulele friendly Key of C.

We are going to use four basic tools, ukulele tablature, three chords (C, F & G7), the C Major Scale and the C Major Pentatonic Scale.

When The Saints Go Marching In

C			
<pre>----- -----0---1- ----0----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 3----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- -----0---1- ----0----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 3----- ----- -----</pre>
c e f	g	c e f	g
		G7	
<pre>----- -----0---1- ----0----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 3-----0----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- -----0----- 0-----0----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- ----- 2----- -----</pre>
c e f	g e	c e	d
		C	F
<pre>----- ----0---0----- -----2----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 0-----0----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 0-----3---3-- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 3---1----- ----- -----</pre>
e e d	c c	e g g	g f
		C	G7
<pre>----- -----0---1- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 3-----0----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 0-----2----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 0----- ----- -----</pre>
e f	g e	c d	c

C Major Scale

<pre>----- -----0---1-- 0---2----- -----</pre>	<pre>-----0---2---3-- 3----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>3---2---0----- -----3- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 1---0----- -----2---0- -----</pre>
C D E F	G A B C	C B A G	F E D C

C Major Pentatonic Scale (Surprise! This is also the A Minor Pentatonic Scale)

<pre>----- -----0---3-- 0---2----- -----</pre>	<pre>0---3----- ----- ----- -----</pre>	<pre>3---0----- -----3---0 ----- -----</pre>	<pre>----- 2---0----- ----- -----</pre>
C D E G	A C	C A G E	D C

Improvisation Ideas: Variation on theme, Call & response, Create your own.