

Chapter 1 – Harmonic Analysis

Welcome to the Summertime study guide, great to have you here!

Before you dive into learning the tune, take a minute to look over how Summertime is built.

Here's a quick list of important items to know and keep in mind when playing Summertime.

- Summertime has 16 bars.
- There are two sections, 8 bars each.
- Those sections can be labelled A and A'. (Start the same and end differently)
- Summertime is in the key of A minor.
- It moves into C major for 2 bars in the A' section, bars 12 and 13.
- There is one secondary dominant chords, A7alt, leading to ivm7.

Here are the chords with their Roman numerals next to each one.

- Am7 = Im7
- A7alt = V7alt/ivm7 (leads to Dm7 in the next bar)
- Dm7 = ivm7
- Bm7b5 = iim7b5
- E7alt = V7alt
- Dm7-G7-Cmaj7 = ii-V-I in C major (relative major to A minor)

As you can see, Summertime uses only chords from A minor and C major, which use the same key signature.

So, that means that you'll be able to solo over this entire tune with minimal scales, modes, etc. in your lines.

That's a big win when learning any jazz standard.

Now that you know how Summertime is built, here's a lead sheet with the chord numbers written below the progression.

The lead sheet for Summertime is written in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The chord progression is as follows:

Measure	Chord Symbols
1	A_{m7}
2	A_{m7}
3	A_{m7}
4	A_{m7}

The handwritten chord symbols above the staff are: A_{m7} (Measure 1), A_{m7} (Measure 2), A_{m7} (Measure 3), and A_{m7} (Measure 4). The handwritten chord symbols below the staff are: A_{m7} (Measure 1), A_{m7} (Measure 2), A_{m7} (Measure 3), and A_{m7} (Measure 4).