Comping Study 1 – Mixed Chords

The first comping study mixes chords you saw earlier in this eBook with new chord shapes to outline the changes of Green Dolphin Street.

The chord shapes aren't overly difficult in this study, but the rhythm is tough to nail.

Because of this, break down the study into 4-8 bar sections and slowly work on the rhythms in those sections on their own.

When you can play the rhythms in two sections accurately and comfortably, bring them together as you build up to the full study.

There are a lot of up-beat chords, chords that fall on the &'s of the beats, and those can cause you to rush or drag the tempo of the song.

To avoid this issue, count along with a slow metronome as you get these chords and rhythms under your fingers.

From there, you can count quarter notes if that's comfortable, so counting 1-2-3-4 in each bar.

Or, if you find that challenging, count the 8th notes in each bar, 1&2&3&4&, to make nailing those upbeats easier in your playing.

Either way, putting a focus on the rhythms of this study will give you a deep understanding of how syncopated comping works in jazz.

Audio Example 22



