

# Lesson 5

## Bass Lines

The function of the bass is to provide a harmonic foundation and a rhythmic ostinato. In jazz, The bass has been traditionally assigned the task of "walking a line" built on the chords of a tune. At first, play the voicings you were shown in Lessons 3 or 4 for the chords in the R.H. in a dotted quarter to eighth note feel. Refer to Ex. 6e in Lesson 6 for a R.H. rhythmic feel that swings with these bass lines.

### Exercises:

5a. Chord changes that last one beat a piece

C7 G7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7

5b. Or - 2 beats apiece with the 5th of the chord or a rest on the weak beats

C7 G7 C7 G7

Kybd.Bass

5c - You could also approach each root from a half - step above.

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ 7

(continue pattern - - -)

5d. Or, you could come from a half step below.

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ 7

(continue pattern - - -)

5e. Or, you could come from a whole step above

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ 7

(continue pattern - - -)

5f. Or you could combine possibilities and come from a whole stop below and a half step above.

C7 F7 B $\flat$ 7 E $\flat$ 7 A $\flat$ 7 D $\flat$ 7

(continue pattern - - -)

5g. When we play on progressions built on something other than the circle of fifths, the results can be very interesting.

C7 E $\flat$ 7 B7 G7 C7