

Basic Jazz Chord Voicings for Piano & Vibes

The *PIANO* may be the least important instrument in the Jazz rhythm section. When used properly, it helps punctuate the syncopated rhythms that give Jazz its distinctive drive and also helps fill out the harmonic progression. When used improperly, it obscures the bass line and along with the guitar and/or vibes forms a muddy, unclear drone that makes a piece sound overly busy.

The *VIBRAPHONE* can add a lush, full background to ballads and help provide variety in rhythmic accompaniments by alternating with guitar and piano. Very seldom do guitar, piano, and vibes play at the same time.

Jazz Listening

The piano players listed below are incredible musicians and a great source of inspiration. Listen to each of them and imitate/emulate their playing. This is a very partial list and in no particular order.

Piano

Teddy Wilson
Art Tatum
Count Basie
Duke Ellington
Art Hodes
Erroll Garner
Bill Evans
Red Garland
Horace Silver

Piano cont.

Chick Corea
Herbie Hancock
Keith Jarrett
McCoy Tyner
Earl Hines
Billy Taylor
Cecil Taylor
Thelonious Monk
Mary Lou Williams

Vibes

Milt Jackson
Lionel Hampton
Stefon Harris
Bobby Hutcherson
Gary Burton
Victor Feldman
Tubby Hayes
Mike Manieri
Red Norvo
Dave Samuels