

IMPROVISATION TECHNIQUES AND CONCEPTS FOR THE CLASSICAL AND FINGERSTYLE GUITARIST

In this first instalment I will focus on a simple four note arpeggio, with the bass on the first beat only, and its variations.

We will use a 2 chord combination. Em (Mi minor) and CM7 (Do major 7) (Ex.1)
Stick for now to these chord shapes in the first position, later on we will deal with other shapes, extensions, substitutions etc.

This chord sequence is similar to the one used by John McLaughlin on Lotus Feet.

In Ex. 2 you will find different variations on Em

Ex 3 shows the ones on CM7

Now let's experiment with different note values on the Em chord (Ex 4) and the CM7 chord (Ex 5). Try to vary as much as possible.

Combining the two chords together using rhythmic variations on these simple patterns leads to melodically simple but rhythmically intriguing lines (Ex 6)

Practice this concept on other two chord-combinations.

Till next instalment

Cheers

Gilbert