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Double Bass Basics

- 90% of the time, the bass player will play the root of the chord on the first beat of the change
- Bass lines move diatonically in the chord, except for an occasional chromatic passing tone

Handwritten musical notation for double bass lines. The first staff shows a sequence of chords: $A\flat\Delta 7$, $F 7$, $B\flat 7$, and $B\flat - 7$. The bass line for $A\flat\Delta 7$ consists of notes G_2 , F_2 , E_2 , D_2 . For $F 7$, it's E_2 , D_2 , C_2 , B_1 . For $B\flat 7$, it's $A\flat_1$, $G\flat_1$, $F\flat_1$, $E\flat_1$. For $B\flat - 7$, it's $A\flat_1$, $G\flat_1$, $F\flat_1$, $E\flat_1$. An arrow labeled "passing tones" points from the $E\flat_1$ of the $F 7$ chord to the $A\flat_1$ of the $B\flat 7$ chord. The second staff shows chords: $E\flat 7$, $A\flat\Delta 7$, and $E\flat - 7 D 7$. The bass line for $E\flat 7$ is D_2 , C_2 , B_1 , $A\flat_1$. For $A\flat\Delta 7$, it's G_2 , F_2 , E_2 , D_2 . For $E\flat - 7 D 7$, it's D_2 , C_2 , B_1 , $A\flat_1$. The notation ends with "etc..."

- Practice, at the piano, playing bass lines in your LH & playing 3rds & 7ths in your RH
- Learn to listen to your bassists & jazz bass players through the history (Ray Brown, Milt Hinton, Paul Chambers, etc...) because they have a profound impact on the way the music happens.

Drum Concepts

In modern jazz there are two basic models for drummers

- ① The drummer lays down a stable rhythmic grid, & the soloist plays rhythms over (& in contrast to) it.
ex. Thelonious Monk & Duke Ellington Trios
- ② The drummer & the soloist use motivic rhythmic devices to interact together.
ex. Bill Evans & Keith Jarrett Trios

Both models can sound super cool!

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