

About Sightreading Chord Progressions (SRCP)

Sightreading Chord Progressions is designed to help you learn to solo effectively over unusual and challenging chord progressions. Before you practice these progressions, be sure to read and practice the concepts in the following chapters from *The Art of Improvisation*:

- Chapter 3B: Melodic Connections
- Most chapters in Level 1

The chord progressions are included in three PDF files: one for concert key instruments and voice (SRCP – Concert Pages), one for Bb instruments (SRCP – Bb Pages), and one for Eb instruments (SRCP – Eb). Be sure you are using the correct PDF file for your instrument.

A sample chord progression is explained below.

48) ||: C | Em A7 | Dm G7 | C |
| Fm | Bbm Eb7 | Dm Db7 | C :|| B ^

- Click on O (the original recording), or L (Latin MIDI file), or S (swing MIDI), or F (fusion MIDI.) This launches a play-along file from the Sightreading Chord Progressions folder for the given progression.
- At the end of the exercise, note the fermata (such as B ^). This chord is held out so you can play a short cadenza or fill on the chord.

The original recordings are acoustic piano (Herb Shon) on left channel; bass (Scott Colley) on right channel; and drums (Dave Marks) on both channels.

Sightreading Chord Progressions was inspired by my experiences sitting in with big bands in Los Angeles (Bob Florence band, Bill Watrous band, etc.) I developed the knack for playing decent-sounding solos on the first reading of a chart, which was a valuable skill. I took the key learnings and wrote *Sightreading Chord Progressions*. Its concepts have now been included in *The Art of Improvisation*; the original play-along recordings are also included for your practice enjoyment.