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The Blues, Boogie And Barrelhouse Piano Workbook



Synopsis

The first comprehensive guide and workbook for improvising early jazz and blues styles! Material never before available, with hundreds of examples and explanations for playing blues and barrelhouse piano. Over 230 pages chock full of music and instruction!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The author: Aaron Blumenfeld is a composer, author, teacher and concert pianist who has worked intensively in classical, jazz and Jewish music. He studied under John Mehegan, author of Jazz education books and teacher of jazz at the Juilliard School of Music. Aaron received his M.A. in music composition from Rutgers University, New Brunswick for his research into early jazz piano. He taught a popular course, FREE IMPROVISATION AT THE PIANO (renamed BLUES, JAZZ & MODERN PIANO IMPROVISATION) at the University of California, Berkeley Extension School for twenty years and at the Berkeley Jazz School for five years. He has published several books:- "The Art of Blues and Barrelhouse Piano Improvisation (1988)", which was renamed "The Blues, Boogie and Barrelhouse Piano Workbook"- Blues & Boogie-Woogie Piano Styles (1995)- A Method for Avant Garde Piano Improvisation: A new Perspective on Harmony (1983). For more info: aarons-world.com

The book: This 232 page-book is a great book to master before you get the author's other book: "How to Play Blues and Boogie Piano Styles", which I also reviewed. Since the author's research for his masters degree was about this subject, one can expect some serious material. All the techniques discussed are backed up by examples. Major sections are basic rhythms, harmonies, bass patterns, grace notes, clusters, repeated patterns, tremolos, "blue" notes,

barrelhouse and ragtime sounds, textures, syncopations and more. He further tells you which recordings have the specific examples that he's trying to explain to you. The verdict: The serious student of the Boogie Woogie will spend many hours on this book, learning from the "master" and... grinning. ;-)

I just completed a class from Mr. Blumenfeld himself on blues piano techniques. I highly recommend his instruction and this book. The book is a comprehensive analysis of blues piano techniques, in highly readable and enlightening form, with a lot of interesting illustrative detail. There are numerous examples, exercises, and short compositions illustrating techniques for right and left hands, such as chord and blues scale bass lines, rocking chords, glissandos, repeated and grace notes, etc. There is an extensive song bibliography with examples of specific techniques from early to mid-century blues pianists. Any level of player can benefit from this book! Note that this is strictly blues - the techniques covered are basic blues styles, not jazz.

Explains all you need to know to learn how to play and improvise blues and boogie woogie. I bought this after playing through and using another book by Blumenfeld. This is the perfect companion.

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