

BRIEF TECHNICAL REVIEW OF SOLO ON HOW HIGH THE MOON

Vibraphone solo

- Typical bebop style solo. We see an exclusive use of mostly eighth notes and some quarter notes, which is a dominant factor inherent in most bebop solo lines. Also, we see a sinusoidal shape in the melody lines, another factor contributing to bebop sounding melodies.
- Notice how most of the melody lines begin on the upbeat of a bar, mostly on the first upbeat of the bar. And also how these long flowing lines would end on a downbeat with a chord tone.
- Two beautifully executed lines based on the bebop scale. One in bar 25 and another one in 32-34, both over a 2-5-1 of the key of Cb and Eb respectively. The use of the bebop scale helps to end the line on a chord tone.
- We can see the half diminished scale being applied in bar 18-19, over a 2-5-1 of Eb, another frequently used scale over a 2-5-1 turn around.
- Notice in bar 23, how the soloist used chord tones of Dbmaj9 to construct his line. This is also a very common technique to solo over a tonic chord. Ending on the maj 9th extension of the chord adds color to line vertically and also horizontally.
- In bar 10, a couple of chromatic notes pieced together in a descending manner was used to start the line, adding some flavor to it.

Trumpet solo

- Less usage of strings of eighth notes in solo lines for both trumpet 1 and 2. But observe how the scarcely spaced notes are syncopated to create some interesting effects on the solo. Especially how trumpet 2 started its solo on bar 17, a series of notes all placed on every upbeat of that particular bar.
- To solo over the dominant chord in bar 16, the half diminished scale (sometimes called the altered scale) has been applied again, using only the flatted 9th and raised 9th of the dominant seventh chord.
- Another use of the chromatic scale in bar 26 and 27. First to start the line in bar 26 in a descending manner, and next another small turn around in the middle. Chromatic notes may not all fit vertically in the respective chords, but if resolved properly, horizontally, can be a very cool embellishment to solo lines.

Saxophone solo

- Notes are placed in an interesting manner rhythmically in bars 3-4 and 20-21. Use of dotted crotchet notes spaced evenly over a simple time music.
- The altered scale again in bar 16, and the use of the Dbmaj9 chord tones exclusively in the line constructed in bar 6.