

art tatum piano starts here

Book Concept: Art Tatum Piano Starts Here

Title: Art Tatum Piano Starts Here: Unlock the Genius of the Master

Concept: This book isn't just a biography of Art Tatum; it's a journey into his unparalleled improvisational genius, accessible to pianists of all levels. It uses Tatum's music as a springboard to teach fundamental piano skills, jazz improvisation techniques, and a deeper understanding of musicality. The narrative weaves biographical anecdotes with practical exercises and analyses of Tatum's iconic solos, creating an engaging and educational experience.

Storyline/Structure: The book follows a chronological structure, moving through Tatum's life and career while simultaneously developing the reader's piano skills. Each chapter focuses on a specific period of Tatum's life or a particular aspect of his playing style (e.g., stride piano, blues phrasing, harmonic sophistication). Within each chapter, readers will find:

Biographical snapshot: A concise account of Tatum's life during that period, highlighting key influences and achievements.

Musical analysis: Detailed examination of a specific Tatum solo or composition, breaking down his techniques and choices.

Practical exercises: Targeted exercises designed to develop the skills demonstrated in the analysis. These exercises range from simple scales and arpeggios to more complex improvisational challenges.

Listening guides: Suggestions on which recordings to listen to in conjunction with the chapter.

Ebook Description:

Unleash Your Inner Art Tatum! Have you always dreamed of playing jazz piano with effortless brilliance, but felt overwhelmed by the complexity of improvisation? Do you struggle with developing your own musical voice and expressing your creativity on the keyboard? Do you feel lost navigating the rich landscape of jazz harmony and rhythm?

This book is your key to unlocking the magic of Art Tatum's unparalleled piano style. Through a unique blend of biography, musical analysis, and practical exercises, you'll learn the techniques that made Tatum a legend, and apply them to your own playing.

"Art Tatum Piano Starts Here: Unlock the Genius of the Master" by [Your Name]

Introduction: Understanding Art Tatum's legacy and the book's approach.

Chapter 1: The Early Years - Mastering the Fundamentals: Stride piano, scales, arpeggios, basic blues progressions.

Chapter 2: The Swing Era - Developing Rhythmic Feel: Swing rhythm, blues improvisation, call-and-response techniques.

Chapter 3: Harmonic Explorations - Beyond the Basics: Advanced chord voicings, altered dominants, modal interchange.

Chapter 4: Improvisation Techniques - Tatum's Secrets: Motivic development, melodic embellishment, solo construction.

Chapter 5: The Later Years - Mastering Virtuosity: Advanced techniques, transcription analysis, exploring Tatum's mature style.

Conclusion: Putting it all together, developing your own artistic voice, and continuing your journey.

Article: Art Tatum Piano Starts Here - A Deep Dive

Introduction: Understanding Art Tatum's Legacy and the Book's Approach

Art Tatum (1909-1956) remains one of the most influential and enigmatic figures in jazz piano history. His unparalleled technical proficiency, harmonic sophistication, and improvisational genius continue to inspire awe and wonder. This book aims to demystify Tatum's playing, providing a practical pathway for pianists of all levels to learn from his mastery. We move beyond mere biography, focusing on the how of his artistry. This is achieved through a combination of biographical context, detailed musical analysis, and carefully designed exercises that break down complex techniques into manageable steps.

Chapter 1: The Early Years - Mastering the Fundamentals

Stride Piano: This foundational technique is crucial to understanding Tatum's rhythmic drive. We'll explore the left-hand patterns, syncopation, and the interplay between bass notes and chord voicings. Exercises will focus on developing rhythmic accuracy and hand independence.

Scales and Arpeggios: Tatum's fluency in scales and arpeggios provided the foundation for his rapid-fire improvisations. We'll focus on efficient fingerings and techniques for achieving a smooth, legato style.

Basic Blues Progressions: The blues provided the backbone of much of Tatum's music. We'll cover basic blues structures, chord substitutions, and simple improvisational patterns.

Chapter 2: The Swing Era - Developing Rhythmic Feel

Swing Rhythm: Understanding and internalizing swing rhythm is paramount. We'll explore different approaches to swing feel, analyzing Tatum's rhythmic phrasing and articulation. Exercises will focus on internalizing the swing feel and applying it to improvisations.

Blues Improvisation: This chapter delves into the core of Tatum's improvisational language within the blues framework. We'll explore different melodic approaches, including blues scales, pentatonic scales, and blue notes.

Call-and-Response Techniques: Tatum masterfully used call-and-response patterns in his solos, creating a dynamic interplay between melody and response. We'll examine these techniques and apply them to our own playing.

Chapter 3: Harmonic Explorations - Beyond the Basics

Advanced Chord Voicings: Tatum's advanced chord voicings add depth and color to his music. We'll explore extended chords, altered dominants, and sophisticated voicings.

Altered Dominants: Mastering altered dominants unlocks a wealth of harmonic possibilities. We'll dissect Tatum's use of altered dominants and how they create unexpected harmonic tensions and resolutions.

Modal Interchange: This technique allows for smooth transitions between different keys and modes, adding harmonic richness and surprise to improvisations. We'll analyze examples from Tatum's solos.

Chapter 4: Improvisation Techniques - Tatum's Secrets

Motivic Development: Tatum often developed short melodic ideas (motives) throughout his solos, creating a sense of unity and coherence. We'll learn to identify motives and expand them.

Melodic Embellishment: Tatum's improvisations were filled with melodic embellishments, adding ornamentation and color. We'll learn techniques for adding these embellishments tastefully.

Solo Construction: This chapter focuses on the overall architecture of Tatum's solos, teaching how to build a cohesive and engaging improvisation with a clear beginning, middle, and end.

Chapter 5: The Later Years - Mastering Virtuosity

Advanced Techniques: This chapter explores more advanced techniques like octave passages, rapid arpeggios, and complex chord progressions, exemplified in Tatum's later work.

Transcription Analysis: We'll analyze transcriptions of Tatum's solos to gain insight into his technical and musical approach.

Exploring Tatum's Mature Style: The final section analyzes Tatum's mature style, his unique phrasing and his command of harmonic and rhythmic complexity.

Conclusion: Putting it all together, developing your own artistic voice, and continuing your journey.

This book provides a roadmap, but ultimately, the goal is for you to develop your own unique voice as a jazz pianist. Embrace the techniques and insights gleaned from studying Art Tatum, but don't be afraid to experiment and develop your personal style. The journey of learning music is a lifelong pursuit, and this book is just the beginning.

FAQs:

1. What level of piano experience is required? While some prior experience is helpful, the book is designed to be accessible to a wide range of players, from intermediate to advanced.
2. Do I need to read music fluently? A basic understanding of music theory and notation is beneficial, but not strictly necessary.
3. What software or equipment do I need? A piano or keyboard is essential. Access to recordings of Art Tatum's music is also highly recommended.
4. How long will it take to complete the book? The time commitment will vary depending on your practice schedule and experience.
5. Is there a specific genre focus apart from jazz? The focus is primarily on jazz piano in the style of Art Tatum.
6. Can I use this book if I only play classical music? Yes, the foundational techniques covered can benefit any pianist regardless of their primary genre.
7. Are there audio or video components? This version is text-based, but future editions may

include supplementary audio or video.

8. What makes this book different from other Art Tatum books? This book focuses on practical application and skill-building, not just biography.
9. Is there a community or forum for readers to connect? We encourage readers to connect online through [mention a platform if applicable].

Related Articles:

1. Art Tatum's Influence on Modern Jazz Piano: Exploring how Tatum's innovations continue to shape contemporary jazz piano.
2. Analyzing Art Tatum's Harmonic Language: A deep dive into the harmonic sophistication of Tatum's improvisations.
3. Mastering Tatum's Rhythmic Feel: A Practical Guide: Focusing specifically on developing swing feel and rhythmic accuracy.
4. The Art of Transcription: Deconstructing Tatum's Solos: A guide to transcribing Tatum's music and understanding his techniques.
5. Art Tatum's Improvisational Strategies: Motivic Development and Beyond: Analyzing his approach to improvisation and solo construction.
6. Comparing Tatum's Style to Other Jazz Piano Legends: Putting Tatum's style in context by comparing him to other great pianists.
7. The Technical Prowess of Art Tatum: A Closer Look: A detailed examination of Tatum's incredible technical abilities.
8. Art Tatum's Legacy: His Impact on Jazz Music: Exploring his broader influence on the genre.
9. Learning Jazz Piano: A Beginner's Guide Inspired by Art Tatum: An introductory article for absolute beginners wanting to learn jazz piano.

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