

# JazzyPiano.net

## Glen Rose

### The Joy of Scales (56 minutes)

#### Part 1

Shorthand used in the descriptions below are as follow:

LH=left hand

RH = right hand

**00:08**

#### **Introduction to the Joy of Scales**

In this video I assume that you know how to play scales. Weather you know them very well or not doesn't matter. We will be looking at a new way to look at scales that is much different than the orientation one learned when studying piano in the traditional way with a path of classical music. In that discipline scales are not looked at as being fun, playful or creative tools.

This video will show you some concepts to get started with that will make scales fun and easy. A true joy to play and experiment with in creative ways.

Jazz musicians understand the true nature of scales and they use them for jazz improvisation and compositions You can create classical sounding creations with scales as well just as the classical masters did. They used to improvise and even improvise around themes at their performances. They would discover things that they liked and then write them down. Great melodies and chord progressions were discovered during their improvising with scales and chords (chords are derived from scales). We can also do the same thing. Discover our own melodies and creations. We may not have the genius of the classical masters but we can discover our own internal rhythms and melodies according to our own abilities and skill levels.

**05:31**

#### **Db scale made easy**

For starter begin on a C note, not on a Db

Make a group of 3 notes starting with your thumb on C then another group or 4 notes with your thumb on F.

**9:44**

Flowing up and down the keyboard with the notes of the Db scale.

**11:10**

connecting short rolls together

**15:24**

Descending with the notes of the Db scale

**17:59**

Add the little finger sometimes

**19:02**

"The left hand

**21:59**

**Let's be dramatic with some classical drama.**

-Play big firm octaves in the left hand while letting the right hand spin around the scale in the right hand freely. No meter, no time, just let the right hand play freely.

**24:20**

**More examples for Db**

Playing with a steady rocking octave in the left hand moving down the scale.

Play with a pulsating, steady left hand the same way.

Talk about what improvisation is.

If you know your scales you can be very imaginative creating and enjoying improvising.

All chords come from scales.

**27:39**

**New perspectives for other scales.**

Looking at the other major scales

**28:02**

**Playing a game with the scales. A brain teaser.**

Loosen up your concept of how you look at and play major scales.

-Start every scale on a C note.

-There five flat key scales that can begin on a C note. Db,Eb,F,Ab,Bb.

-Start and end all five of the scales with a C note.

- This is one way jazz musicians look at scales enabling them to play through chord changes that are always changing quickly and necessitate changing scales constantly.

**32:00**

**Inventing interesting ways to play the scale game.**

Loosen up the scales even further by spinning them similarly with two different hand locations just as we did with the Db scale.

- Find different ways to enjoy playing the scales with interesting and creative patterns.
- Add a left hand.

**34:03**

**Triplets**

-More creative ways to enjoy playing patterns through the scales. Very good brain food.

**35:12**

**The scale game “spinning” in several octaves.**

“Spin” through all the five flat key scales in a similar way that we did with the Db scale.

**35:57**

**Improvisation example#1 (Ab)**

Spinning with the concepts of the scale game

**37:29**

**Improvisation example #2 (F)**

“Spinning” more slowly with the concepts of the scale game.

-Use any note other than the tonic note.

**39:15**

**Scales with Sharps**

Start 6 Scales with Sharps in their key signatures starting from the same note.

Start with a B note and you will find six possibilities. B, D, E, Gb, G, A.

Play through all the sharp keys in the same way we did with the 5 flat scales.

**42:46**

**Visual landscapes for all of the 12 scales.**

Each scale has its own visual personality. An individual geography or topography made up of black note formations that are unique to each scale.

Practice depressing all of the notes in the scale all together. When you hold them down you can identify each individual, distinct visual pattern that each scale has. They all have unique visual personalities and will all feel different under the fingers.

Visualize these patterns when you are away from the piano like when you are out walking or driving. If you lie still or in the dark before you go to bed, this can be quite similar to a focused meditation.

Play any combination of notes within the scales. Depress and group of notes within the scales.

### **49:13**

**Making melodic skips in the major scales.** (instead of playing in sequential scale steps)

Outline the basic triad chords in any scale.

Other ways to find playfulness in the scales.

Create improve melodies with a lot of 3<sup>rd</sup> intervals. This creates a very colorful sound.

### **50:03**

Example in the key of C – Melodic skips of a 3<sup>rd</sup> that make triad within the scales going up or down

.

This is improvising with the harmonized chords of the major scales.

This is a great exercise for learning the scales.

Key of D

**Play just the harmonized triad built from the first three scale steps.**

Key of D example.

Key of E example

Key of Eb example

Key of Db example

This a great way to practice your scales and loosen up your fingers.

### **53:29**

**Example adding a Latin type of feel.**

Key of D playing with the harmonized triads in the scales.

### **54:14**

**Intervals of a 3<sup>rd</sup> up the scales.**

Play similarly with melodic skips of a 3<sup>rd</sup> instead of the harmonized chord movement.

GO up and down through the scale.

Examples in the keys of C, A, G, Ab