

ENHANCING OUR CHORDS – VARYING FINGER LIFT

In our first Lesson in this series we looked at creating interest in simple 2/3 chord songs by using the Basic Finger Lift within a 4 count. We are using Jambalya to help us learn.

In this Lesson we will progress to varying the finger we lift within our G7 chord, whilst continuing with the finger lift on our C chord.

To help us I want to number each of our fingers so as to make it easy for us to reference which finger is lifted at any time.

1st Finger (Index finger), 2nd Finger (Middle finger), 3rd Finger (Ring finger), 4th Finger (Little finger).

First of all we concentrated on lifting our 2nd finger when playing G7 chord.

Now we are going to lift our 1st finger when making the G7 chord, again within the 4 beats of the bar.

Practice this slowly at first, (your fingers will have a mind of their own initially until you have trained them).

Now go from our C chord finger lift to our new G7 finger lift.

Use Jambalya to help you get consistent, speeding up only when you are! (What chord do you create when lifting the 1st finger on a G7 chord?)

Build up your speed between C chord lift and the G7 finger lift.

Now comes the challenge! Play alternately the 1st and 2nd finger lifts on the G7 chord, slowly at first then building up to song speed when you are ready. You will start to hear interesting sound variations adding interest to your playing, particularly as you speed up.

As always, I will post a video of the Lesson for you to follow at your own pace.

Using the finger lift technique should become second nature to you whatever song you are playing. It can be incorporated into any chord.

The technique is simple but effective in 2/3 chord songs particularly and also where you are holding a chord for a number of bars. It also works as a precursor to moving from one chord to another.

Remember to have Jambalya handy.