

# JAZZ piano HANDBOOK

essential jazz  
piano skills  
for all musicians

**nichole  
WEIR**

If you're a jazz singer or instrumentalist and don't already have basic skills in jazz piano, now is the time! Piano skills are the gateway to understanding chords and progressions, checking lead sheets for accuracy, learning new tunes, composing, writing your own tunes, becoming a better improviser and so on. This book will outline an easy step-by-step process for learning basic jazz piano in just six months.

You'll never regret the time you take to acquire these skills!

The Jazz Piano Handbook is:

- user-friendly—easy to understand and non-threatening
- logical—information is presented in a big big organized, flowway
- practical—involves and challenges with jazz standards
- useful for teachers—methods can be applied to students

## Topics included in the Jazz Piano Handbook:

### Before You Begin: Piano Review

#### Jazz Piano 101

- Circle of Fifths
- Chord types
- Interval strings

#### Progress #1 (P1)

- Solving P1 (major, dominant and minor seventh chords)
- B7(b9) progression
- Pattern P1 major
- Solving P1 (major seventh, 6th b9 chords)
- Pattern P1 minor

#### Progress #2 (P2)

- Solving P2 (major, dominant and minor seventh chords)
- Pattern P2 major
- Solving P2 (major seventh, 6th b9 chords)
- Pattern P2 minor

### Applying the Patterns

- Constructing the flow
- The nature of chord progressions
- Rhythm and melody...

### Rhythmic Styles

- Swing
- Bossa nova
- Additional rhythmic styles (jazz walk, samba and ballads)

### Expanding Your Palette

- Color notes
- Five-note voicings

### Progress #3 (P3) and #4 (P4)

- Voicings and patterns P3
- Voicings and patterns P4
- Mixing and matching patterns (P1, P2, P3 and P4)

### Open Voicings

- Drop 2
- Non-harmonic open voicings

### Harmonic Texture

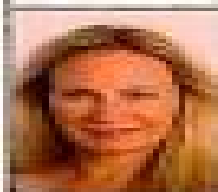
- Broken chords
- Passing notes

### Playing the Tunes

- Harmonizing the melody
- Fills
- Melodic improvisations

### Appendix I: Studies

### Appendix II: Catalog of Chord Symbols and Color Notes



**Nichole Weir** is an internationally respected jazz educator, arranger and vocalist and a faculty member at UCLA. Nichole's arrangements are widely published and have been performed by groups including New York Voices, Affinity, Chamberlyne, the Boston Pops, the Pacific Symphony and many others. Nichole served as music supervisor for the foreign language dub of the Disney movie film, Prince of Egypt.

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# Michele Weir Jazz Piano Handbook

**Annelies Wilder-Smith**



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