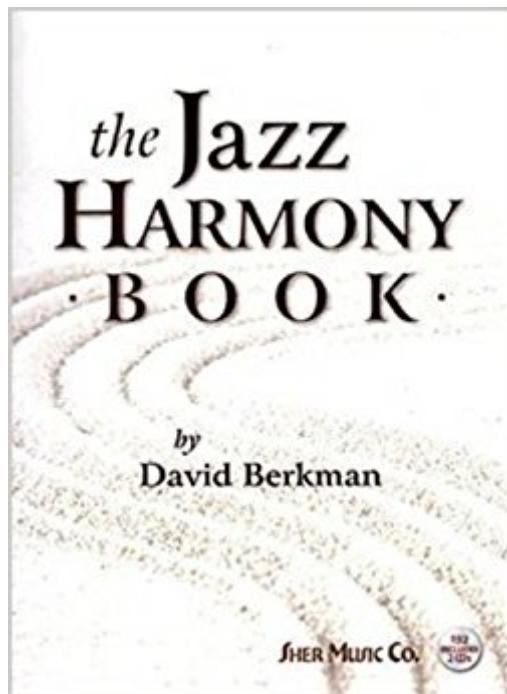


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# The Jazz Harmony Book



## **Synopsis**

THE JAZZ HARMONY BOOK by NY pianist David Berkman will be an instant classic. The Jazz Harmony Book is a course in how to add chords to melodies, showing how a single melody can give rise to rich harmonic variations. Endorsed by Kenny Werner, Fred Hersch, Mark Levine, and others, this book fills a big gap in the jazz literature and will be used by generations of jazz musicians to learn both the basics and subtleties of Jazz Harmony. Includes two CDs.

## **Book Information**

Spiral-bound: 206 pages

Publisher: Sher Music Co (December 31, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1883217792

ISBN-13: 978-1883217792

Product Dimensions: 8.9 x 0.7 x 11.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #124,294 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #100 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Jazz #272 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Theory

## **Customer Reviews**

KENNY WERNER SAYS: This is a definitive study of harmony from someone who knows harmony. The Jazz Harmony Book is a great way for musicians to completely understand and implement harmony in their music. He makes a great point that jazz has evolved mostly rhythmically. And while he pays full tribute to rhythm and the excitement of this modern music, he makes the very true point that while rhythm has evolved, harmony in modern music seems to have devolved. Perhaps if up-and-coming jazz musicians follow David's insightful path to harmony, that might change!

--Private correspondence FRED HERSCH SAYS: This book is very comprehensive and well-organized and one of the better books I have seen on this subject. The Tips for Composers alone are worth the price of the book. --Private correspondence MICHAEL PHILIP MOSSMAN SAYS: Since David Berkman was appointed to the Aaron Copland School at Queens College, the difference in the level of sophistication of our graduates in both performing and composing has been tremendous. Musicians get much more value from all of our courses because of the understanding they gain from the material contained in this book. When musicians understand harmony they hear

more detail in the music and can participate at a much higher level. David has a gift for explaining complex ideas and guiding musicians along the path of learning jazz harmony. This book is invaluable! --Private correspondence FRED HERSCH SAYS: This book is very comprehensive and well-organized and one of the better books I have seen on this subject. The Tips for Composers alone are worth the price of the book. --Private correspondence MICHAEL PHILIP MOSSMAN SAYS: Since David Berkman was appointed to the Aaron Copland School at Queens College, the difference in the level of sophistication of our graduates in both performing and composing has been tremendous. Musicians get much more value from all of our courses because of the understanding they gain from the material contained in this book. When musicians understand harmony they hear more detail in the music and can participate at a much higher level. David has a gift for explaining complex ideas and guiding musicians along the path of learning jazz harmony. This book is invaluable! --Private correspondence

David Berkman is one of the top jazz pianists in New York with seven records out under his own name. He has performed or recorded with countless jazz stars including Sonny Stitt, Joe Lovano, Eddie Henderson, Brian Blade, Dave Douglas, Chris Potter, etc. An in-demand jazz educator on three continents, he is an associate professor of music at Queens College in NY.

Finally found what I was looking for after all these years. Let's start with the fact that you need a fundamental music knowledge to enter into the realm of jazz harmony. The book does start from the very beginning of I IV V I cadence, but if you're absolutely new to music chances are you wouldn't know what that means. I would say the prerequisite for this book is basic sight reading (treble clef and bass clef), major and minor scales, triads, and intermediate piano skill (which fortunately provided as one of the appendices). The book is piano focused, which is excellent for all jazz pianists out there. All examples are written on grand staff and voiced using piano on the 2 CDs. Other instrument players will have to transpose the piano voicing into their own instrument which is not always possible if you want to copy exact voicing e.g. 8 note voicing in piano cannot be exactly replicated in guitar which only allows a maximum of 4 (or 5 if you use the thumb) finger note voicing. Now let's get to the meat of the book. I'm finding a hard time to explain anything but saying this is it! I have nothing else to say. If you want to learn jazz harmony I haven't found and cannot recommend anything else but this book. I do have a library of jazz tutorial books but I cannot find a book on the same calibre and effectiveness compared to this one. It's kinda puzzling why this book only comes out in 2013. Well it's better late than never I guess. It would save me years of training

had this book was available the first time I fell in love with jazz. The book departs from a very basic I IV V cadence progressing to very advanced concepts. Surely there are other books out there which deliver the same material, but the additional star of this book belongs to the delivery. Dave's teaching flows very well and it makes sense. When I understand something, I remember it easily. He talks why and how harmony works, whereas other books talk about only which harmony works. And the book encourages you to apply the theory. Although the CDs are very clear, it feels like you just want to try it on the piano asap. I have not much else to say. Despite a few typos here and there, and Track 32 on the CD is not what's written on the book, I find this book perfect regardless. So thank you Dave Berkman, I made a huge leap of progress in my jazz harmonic study thanks to your book. I would highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning practical jazz harmony. And since there is no content page on either Shermusic or , here it is (hope it helps with your buying decision):

Introduction

**PART 1 - THE HARMONIC UNIVERSE OF A KEY**

The First Circle: I, IV and V & Chords

The Second Circle: Diatonic Seventh Chord Substitutions for I, IV and V7

The Third Circle: Secondary Dominant Seventh and Related ii Minor7 chords

Understanding the Geography of Standard Tunes: Jazz Cadences and Turnarounds

The Fourth Circle: Passing Chords

The Fifth Circle: Modal Interchange Chords

The Last Circle: Tritone Substitutions

The Harmony of Minor Tunes

Another Approach to Jazz Harmony Using Diminished Chords

Deep Structure, the Right Changes and Re-Harmonization

**PART 2 - BEYOND THE HARMONIC UNIVERSE: RULES FOR NON-FUNCTION**

Eleven Organizing Principles of Non-functional Chord Progressions

Same Root, Different Chord Quality

Slash Chords

Harmonizing a Bass Line

Chords Built in Fourths

"Giant Steps"

Color Chords

Parallel Chords that use Exact Transposition (planning)

Pedals

Chord Subtraction

Unavailable Tensions

Incomplete Chords

Conclusion

Appendix A: Tips for Composers

Appendix B: Piano Basics

i love this book...after years of collecting jazz theory books and still not being able to comp this book finally got me actually playing jazz harmony...i combined it with the info in david reeds IMPROVISE FOR REAL book...they go well together...brilliant book..

These were all excellent though quite often the disc containers are cracked - an issue that needs to be addressed I think as it occurs with more than 50% of my purchases from you.

Beckman's book is an excellent addition to any music library. It is not a jazz theory book, however, and should be viewed as supplemental material specifically for the study of jazz harmony (as

indicated by the title). Although the subject has been covered in other works, Beckman's approach to the "harmonic universe" is novel. His explanations clarify and reinforce my previous studies. This book is good for self instruction provided one has a good knowledge of music theory and at least some training in harmony. A person without previous theory or harmony studies will no doubt find this book recondite. One criticism, I wish Berkman had used a standard font for the examples as apposed to the jazz font which is more difficult for my old eyes to clearly see.

This book is a must have if you are a musician and you don't know nothing about theory. You need to have this. I bought this book not too long and I am very satisfied with this book. It teaches a lot.

I love this book. It has received rave reviews. There are 23 Chapters, And two Appendices: Tips for Composers and Piano Basics. There are also two CD's that play the examples in the book. I have read in depth explanations that include a plethora of musical examples. I can hardly wait to get started. I will be applying the examples to the organ. Get this book and improve right now!

It begins from the very simple harmony concepts till the almost more advanced. With a non pianist review for improve your piano skills and help you to understand and improve the basics of harmony theory.

Great book, thoroughly outlining various approaches to improvisation with concise diagrams and examples! Overall and excellent study guide!!

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