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MELODY: WHERE NOTES COME FROM

Melodies have direction and are triggered by rhythmic impulse. Each chord has a group of “correct” notes—notes that are *diatonic* to the sound of that chord. Additionally, each chord—not just each species of chord, but each of the 96 common chords used in modern improvisation—has a different character. Cma7 is very different in character from D^bma7.

Here is an ascending rhythmic phrase.



Here are three examples of the same phrase that are adjusted/corrected for the given chords. Notice how notes that rhythmically anticipate beat 1 or 3 receive their harmony from the chord that follows.

