

CHORD PLAYING AND IMPROVISING WITH CHRISTOPHER NORTON

1. DEEP IN THOUGHT (CONNECTIONS 4)

Connections for Piano has been very popular since its launch in 2007. It is a major part of the new Royal Conservatory syllabus in Canada .

It features a variety of pop and jazz styles, with (free) backing tracks. It is also available on Superscore.

There are 11 levels, Preparatory and 1-10.



Deep in Thought is a subtle, mysterious 3/4 piece.

There are composer performances on Youtube of all 11 Connections volumes (and lots more besides!)

(<http://www.youtube.com/christophermicrojazz>) - do subscribe!

2 Deep in Thought

Christopher Norton

Cool $\text{♩} = 88$

Musical notation for measures 1-4. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *p*. Pedal: *con ped.*

Musical notation for measures 5-8. Treble clef, bass clef.

Musical notation for measures 9-12. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mf*.

Musical notation for measures 13-16. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mp*.

Musical notation for measures 17-20. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *p*, *cresc.*

Musical notation for measures 21-24. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mf dim.*, *rit.*

Musical notation for measures 25-29. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *mf*, *mp*. Tempo: *a tempo*.

Musical notation for measures 30-34. Treble clef, bass clef. Dynamics: *dim.*, *rit.*, *pp*.

Here's the chord progression for Deep in Thought.

B♭maj7 Fmaj7 B♭maj7 Fmaj7 A♭maj7 Gm D♭ C A♭

11 C A♭ Gm B♭maj7 Fmaj7 B♭maj7

20 Fmaj7 A♭maj7 Gm D♭ F

The image shows three systems of musical notation for a piano piece. Each system consists of a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The first system covers measures 1-10, the second system covers measures 11-19, and the third system covers measures 20-24. Above the staves, chord symbols are provided for each measure. The music is in a 3/4 time signature and a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The notation includes chords, single notes, and some melodic lines in the bass clef.

Play each individual chord at first - savour them!

Then play the progression, without the track, then with the track.

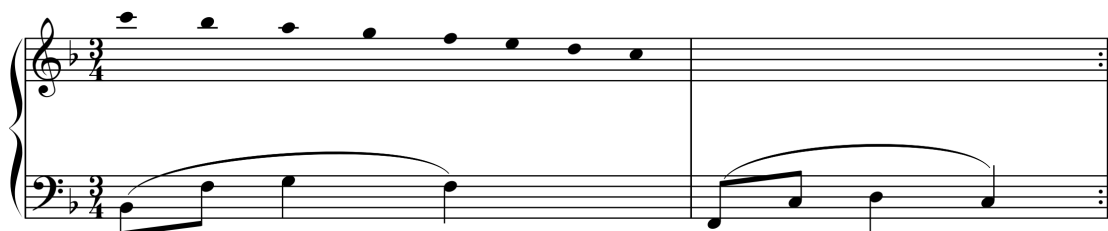
Try your own rhythms (with the track)

SIMPLE IMPROVISING on Deep in Thought

Play the opening 2 bars of Deep in Thought and improvise freely.

Use the scale below (up or down, starting on any note)

Do this without the supplied track, then with the track.



Some ideas to get you started:

1. Create your own right hand melody (or melodies) above the left hand pattern
2. "Answer" an "A" idea with a "B" idea
3. Try various structures: AB, ABA, AABA, AABCAA....
4. Try playing very freely!
5. Go beyond the scale pitch-wise.

Connections 4 is available from 80dayspublishing.com
(debrawanless.com in Canada)

See Christopher Norton play Deep in Thought on Youtube:
<https://youtu.be/Kn6ojH1U-dw>