

Deborah Henson-Conant's  
**“Play with Freedom” Playsheet #1 (1-6-2-5)**

Because sometimes you just need someone to  
show you the door to your own creative freedom.



This one-hour workshop is a warm-up for my “Summer Harp Jam PLUS” summer-long program for harp players - lever or pedal - fledgling to advanced.

**Do you sometimes wish you could just sit down and PLAY???** Is it something some people just “have” and others don’t???

Well, I learned improvisation from my mom - and now I want to share what I learned! **This handout gives you the basic building blocks of one of most fundamental musical progressions** - and when you know how to play *with it*, you can use it for improvs, interludes, jams, hospice - or even creating whole songs!!

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**“I have a strict classical background. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I could improvise! This brings it all together in a way that I can relate to.”** *Sally Walstrum*

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**“I just realized that I can play a really gorgeous improv and nobody will know how simple it is!”** *Nell Morris*

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*developing your ear, your rhythm, your understanding of harmony, and your improv and performance skills all while having FUN playing.*

In “Summer Harp Jam” you get nearly a dozen different sequences like this - some simple, some complex. **It’s like an instant Repertoire Expander in just 8 weeks -- all learned through play-along sessions so you get lots and lots and LOTS of play-time with your instrument**

**And in 2018 “Summer Harp Jam PLUS”** includes 3 additional powerful online programs to help you put everything you learn into play: “Hands on Harmony,” “Jazz Harp Warmups” and “Inside Jazz Tunes” - for a Summer of playing that expands your creativity and skills.

**WHY?** Because your creative expression is important to the world (Yes! to the *world!*) - and I want to help you expand it, develop it and share it.

**Register NOW for “Summer Harp Jam PLUS”  
at HarpJam.com**

  
**HipHaRp.com**  
fn: SHF-DHC-PlayWithFreedom-PlaySheet.indd

# Deborah Henson-Conant's "SUMMER HARP JAM" Playsheet #1

Opening up one of world's most useful chord progressions

1 - 6 - 2 - 5  
C - Am - Dm - G

(NOTE: This handout won't make sense without the webinar)

OK ... cool ... so it's C Maj - Amin - Dmin - G Maj ... whataya DO with it????

## Step 1: BUILD basslines, LH patterns melodies and chords from the Big Letter

**A. BASSLINES & LH PATTERNS:** A bassline can be as simple as a single Big Letter note. A LH pattern can be as complex as you want. This one simple LH pattern can be re-styled in many ways or just used as is:

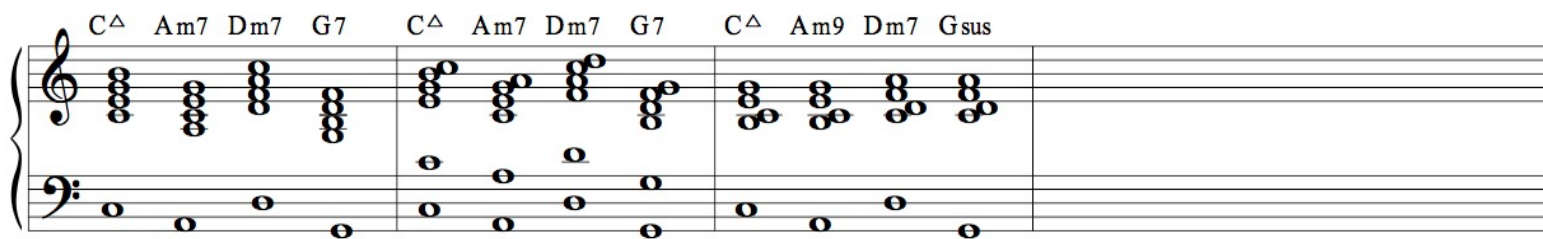


**B. MELODIC IMPROV:** Each of the melodic patterns below a kind of 'game' to get from one Big Letter note to the next. Can you figure out the pattern of each 4-Bar section? These aren't great melodies, but they're a way to get comfortable using the Big Letter to help you "Noodle" and "Noodling" is the first step towards melodic improvisation.



#1. Just goes from Big Letter to Big Letter. #2. Starts in the opposite direction of the next B.L., then moving towards it with a scale and doubling back a note as needed. #3. Moves toward the next B.L. scale-wise and if it gets there too soon, leaps over it and then moves back. #4. Starts by jumping up a 3rd in the opposite direction of the next B.L., then moving towards it with a scale and doubling back a note as needed. #5. Moves toward the next B.L. scale-wise and if it gets there too soon, leaps over it and then moves back.

**C. ACCOMPANIMENT PATTERNS:** These all expand each chord to a 7th or 9th. Where is the Big Letter in each chord?



**Step 2: REPEAT it 'til it's really comfortable**

**Step 3: EXPERIMENT with 'styling' (different rhythms) & patterns**

**Step 4. FOLLOW Creative 'mistakes'**

Instead of 'fixing' mistakes, focus on maintaining fluency. That means that if you make what you think is a mistake, just keep going and either repeat it gracefully, or gracefully come back to the pattern, always listening for things you like, and generally ignoring the things you don't

**Step 5. Join Hip Harp Academy or Summer Harp Jam and expand your creativity skills in *everything* you play**