

ART OF REGGAE

ORGAN COURSE 1

SPOTIFY CURATED PLAYLIST FOR ORGAN COURSE 1: THE ROLE OF THE PIANO IN REGGAE MUSIC

Spotify link:

<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/5uSm7snp8qKzLajIv4JbYo?si=5253faa2a2604d77>

NOTE: Spotify may randomly take down some of the tunes on this and all curated playlists. If this is the case you should easily be able to find the track elsewhere such as iTunes, Youtube.

Lesson 1: The Bubble (also known as the shuffle) and its Origins

Lesson 2: The Hammond organ, Leslie speaker, Lo and Hi Tone Bubble, range and use of percussion

Lesson 3: Swing vs. straight 8th feel

- **Lazy Bones** by Jackie Mittoo. Example of the Hammond organ as a lead instrument.
- **Hot Milk** by Jackie Mittoo. Example of Hammond organ as a lead instrument.

Lo Tone Bubble

- **Equal Rights** by Peter Tosh. Example of *straight 8th feel, lo tone bubble*. (one drop groove)
- **War** by Bob Marley. There is no bubble until the 40 second marker. Listen to how the song sounds without the bubble and then how it sounds when it comes in at 40 seconds.
- **Night Nurse** by Gregory Isaacs. Example of a *straight 8th feel, lo tone bubble*. (rockers groove)
- **Jamming** by Bob Marley. Example of a *swing 8th feel, lo tone bubble*. (steppers groove)
- **One Drop** by Bob Marley. Example of a *swing 8th feel, lo tone bubble*. (one drop groove)
- **Izza Killa** by Matt Jenson's Liquid Revolution. Example of a *swing 8th feel, lo tone bubble*. (one drop groove)

Hi Tone Bubble

- **Kneel At the Feet** by 10ft Ganja Plant. Example of a *swing 8th feel, hi tone bubble*. (one drop groove)
- **Picture on the Wall** by Groundation. Example of a *swing 8th feel, hi tone bubble*. (one drop groove)
- **Monk's Dream** by Thelonius Monk, played by Monty Alexander. Example of a *swing 8th feel, hi tone bubble*. (one drop groove)
- **Nobody Knows** by Slightly Stoopid. Example of a *straight 8th feel, hi tone bubble*. (fast! one drop groove)
- **The Garden** by Tribal Seeds. Example of a *straight 8th feel, hi tone bubble*. (rockers groove)

Percussion

- **Dreamland**, Bunny Wailer version. Example of *percussion on the organ*. Playing the 3rd harmonic percussion with a hybrid chop and stab pattern. (one drop groove)

Lesson 4: Bubble Variations – Whistle Bubble and Mento Bubble

Whistle Bubble

- **Tribute to the Martyrs** by Steel Pulse. Example of a *straight 8th feel whistle bubble*. (one drop groove)

Mento Bubble

- **Hold Me Jack** by the Jolly Boys. This is a traditional mento song. Listen to the banjo strum. It's the 'mento bubble' rhythm.
- **Funkey Funkey Funkey Reggay** by the Skatalites. Example of a straight 8th feel mento bubble played on guitar.
- **Leaving Rome** by Gladstone Anderson. Example of a *straight 8th feel mento bubble* played on organ.
- **Lips of Wine** by Dennis Brown. Example of a *straight 8th feel mento bubble* played on organ.

Lesson 5: Double and Triple Chop

Double Chop

- **How Come** by Morgan Heritage on the Drop Leaf Riddim. Example of *straight 8th feel lo tone double chop*. (rock reggae groove)
- **Love Now** by Tuff Lion. Example of a *straight 8th feel lo tone double chop*. (one drop groove)
- **Lifetime Lover** by J Boog. Example of a *straight 8th feel hi tone double chop*. (one drop groove)
- **Sunshine Girl** by J Boog. Example of a (really fast!) *straight 8th feel lo tone double chop*. (ska groove)

Swing 8th double chop

Triple Chop (It's almost always done in a swing 8th feel.)

- **Silhouette** by Dennis Brown. Example of a *swing 8th feel hi tone triple chop*. (one drop groove)
- **Lively Up Yourself** by Bob Marley. Example of a *swing 8th feel lo tone triple chop*. (one drop groove)
- **Hang On** by the Ethiopians. Example of a *straight 8th feel triple chop* on PIANO!
- (- **Sweet Feeling** by the Abyssinians. Example of a *swing 8th hi tone triple chop*. NOT ON SPOTIFY)

Lesson 6: Stab, Bad Card Bubble, Glissandos

Single Stab

- **Fossil Fuels** by Groundation. Example of a *straight 8th feel single stab, lo tone*.
- **Set Me Free** by 10ft Ganja Plant. Example of a *straight 8th single stab, hi tone*.
- **Three Little Birds Dub** by Bob Marley. Dub version. *Example of straight 8th single stab, hi tone*. Note how the second stab is quieter than the first stab. (This is probably because the second stab is being played on the lower keyboard using the lo tone bubble sound.)

Non-Syncopated Double Stab

Syncopated Double Stab

- **Weeping Pirates** by Groundation. Example of a *straight 8th feel syncopated double stab with lo tone bubble sound*. (one drop groove) It's not consistent throughout the tune but very clear in the introduction.

Combination Syncopated and Non-Syncopated Double Stab

- **The Harder They Come** by Jimmy Cliff. Example of a *straight 8th feel combination syncopated and non-syncopated double stab*. Note how the first stab is syncopated and the second one is non syncopated.

Triple Stab

Bad Card Bubble

(...which is actually a syncopated stab but 'Bad Card Bubble' rolls off the tongue better ☺)

- **Bad Card Bubble** by Bob Marley. Example of a *straight 8th feel Bad Card bubble*. (hybrid one drop and ska groove)

Lesson 7: Groove Clash

It's just about impossible to find clear examples of a swing 8th bubble being played against a straight 8th groove (and vice-versa) as taught in this lesson. This is a teaching technique designed to heighten musician's awareness of swing and straight 8th note feel, by playing them directly against each other. Here are some examples of the 'third way' where there is a tension between the overall band groove (swing or straight 8th) with individual parts playing the opposite feel. Listen very carefully. It can be difficult to hear at first.

- **Guiltiness by Bob Marley**. The overall groove is more towards the swing 8th feel while the drum fills (or rolls) are mostly in a very straight 8th feel. Also, many but not all of the horn phrases are in a very straight 8th feel.

- **I And I Survive (Slavery Days)** by Burning Spear. This is a dub version of his famous tune "Slavery Days." Example of a *swing 8th mento bubble on PIANO*. You will hear the piano being faded in and out. Note that the main groove is swing 8th feel but the piano mento bubble leans towards the straight 8th feel.

- **Roots Rock Dub** by Bob Marley (dub version). The overall groove is towards the swing but listen to how the I-Three (back up singers) phrase the chorus "this a reggae music." This sing it with a very straight 8th feel. They sing it twice at and :28 1:29