

II Dmin A7 Dmin Dmin A7 Dmin

5 3 1 4 2 1 5 3 1 5 3 1 4 2 1 5 3 1

1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2

Bass

As with much Cuban-flavored music, the rhythm is more challenging than the melodic or harmonic content. Here is a tumbao pattern one might hear supporting a 3/2 clave. Note that this bassline is made up entirely of chord tones. Watch those ties and have fun!

Dmin A7 \flat 9 Dmin A7 Dmin A7

1 1 3 1 1 1 1 3 3 1 4 1 3

5 7 7 5 4 5 7 (7) 7 (7) 4 7 5 7

5 (5)

7 Dmin A7 Dmin A7

7 1 4 1 3 1 3 1 3 3 2 3 1 3

5 8 (8) 5 (5) 7 5 7 5 7 (7) 7 (7) 6 7 5 7

5 (5)

II Dmin A7 Dmin Dmin A7 Dmin

II 1 3 1 1 3 3 3 1 1

5 7 (7) 5 (5) 5 7 7 7 (7) 5 (5) 5 5 5

Drums

Here is a simple but effective groove with the bass drum providing the basic 3/2 clave rhythm and the snare (played with a cross stick) providing other accents on top. Try this out the next time you are playing with a Cuban feel to add some spice!

The musical score is written for a drum set in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems, each with two staves. The top staff is for the snare drum, and the bottom staff is for the bass drum. The snare part features a 3/2 clave rhythm (one half note followed by two dotted half notes) with various accents and rests. The bass drum part provides a steady 3/2 clave rhythm. The score is divided into three systems, with measures 6 and 10 marked at the beginning of the second and third systems respectively.

For more information on the clave, be sure to check out the Licks and Tricks column in this newsletter, as well as the Amanda Monaco lesson “Introducing the Clave” and the Tom Dempsey lesson “Introduction to Clave.” You can also order Jeff Peretz’s book, *Guitar Atlas: Cuba* at www.ordermusictoday.com.

Not a guitarist? Don’t worry, we’ve got lessons for you too. Keyboardists should check out David Pearl’s Pianist’s Tool Box lesson “Cuban Son.” Bass players will enjoy the intermediate rock bass lessons “The Bo Diddley Groove,” taught by Tracy Walton, and “Introducing the Bo Diddley Groove,” taught by Sharon Ray. Drummers and percussionists will love Kalani’s hand drum seminar lessons “The Clave and the Agogo” and “Salsa Patterns: Mambo and Songo for Two Drums.”

Happy Holidays—be creative, and most importantly have fun!