

# CHAPTER II: Playing in 5/4

## SUBDIVISIONS

The 5/4 time signature is normally divided as 3+2 or 2+3 subdivisions that can occur within the measure. This etude keeps the 3+2 division throughout, while the melody travels through the keys of C minor, B $\flat$  minor, A $\flat$  minor, F $\sharp$  minor, E minor, D minor and G minor with each chord

lasting eight measures. As noted earlier, think of this 5/4 etude as a measure of 3/4 followed by a measure of 2/4. After learning the melody, improvise over the etude form using rhythmic and melodic fragments from the etude in addition to the Dorian scale.

### 5/4 Minor Etude No. 1

The musical score for "5/4 Minor Etude No. 1" is written in 5/4 time and consists of eight measures. The key signature changes through several minor keys: C minor (Cm), B $\flat$  minor (B $\flat$ m), A $\flat$  minor (A $\flat$ m), F $\sharp$  minor (F $\sharp$ m), E minor (Em), and D minor (Dm). The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, accents, and slurs.

Measures 1-6: Cm

Measure 7: B $\flat$ m

Measures 8-16: Abm

Measures 17-25: F $\sharp$ m

Measures 26-34: Em

Measures 35-42: Dm

43

47

52

The following etude uses the 3+2 and 2+3 divisions, which alternate every eight bars. The harmonic pattern of the etude travels through all keys using the circle of fourths with each chord lasting eight measures.

Take notice when the 3+2 subdivision switches to 2+3. As noted earlier, after learning the melody, improvise over the etude form using rhythmic and melodic fragments from the etude in addition to the Dorian scale.

5/4 Minor Etude No. 2

1

7

12

16

21

25

30

34

38

42

46

50

54

57

61

65

69

73

77

81 Dm

85

89 Gm

93 rit.

### CONTRASTING THE MINOR ETUDE WITH OTHER SCALES

Minor #7, flat five minor, and b6/#7 etudes melodically contrast the original 5/4 minor etude in 3+2 and 2+3. Take notice how each etude takes on a different musical character when contrasted while internalizing the altered minor sound of each etude.

The 5/4 rhythmic sketch is included and can be used as an additional path for improvisation.

### 5/4 Minor Etude (maj7)

Cm(maj7)

7 Fm(maj7)

12

16 Bbm(maj7)