

FREQUENT FLYER

("BIRD'S BLUES")

MUSIC BY
MARK STEFANI

"Frequent Flyer" is a bebop blues composition, dedicated to Dave Illig, my friend and a fine jazz guitarist residing in Houston, Texas. When Dave isn't flying around the fingerboard, he's busy piloting commercial jetliners for a major airline, hence the title of this tribute. Uptempo, about 215 bpm or greater. Have fun!

Chords: Cm7, Bm7(b9), E7(b9), Am7, D7(b9), Gm7, C7(b9)

Chords: Fmaj7, Fm7, Em7, Ebm7

Chords: Dm7, G7, Em7 (1. 2.), A7(b9), Dm7, G7(b9)

NOTES...

The term "Bird's Blues" refers to alto saxophone legend, Charlie Parker, and his use of an alternative chord progression to the standard, 12-bar swing blues. Two well-known examples of this format are "Blues for Alice" (Bird) and "Freight Trane" (Tommy Flanagan). Observe the I (C) and IV (F) chords, functioning as major 7ths instead of the usual dominant 7ths, giving the tune a much sweeter flavor. You'll also note a series of short II-Vs in measures 2-4, backcycling into the Fmaj7 at bar 5, followed by chromatically descending minor 7ths in measures 5-8, leading to the II-V and a more melodic turnaround in the final four bars. This progression is challenging for the improviser, because the changes need to be addressed to achieve success.