

# The Nashville Number System

By Dan Wilt

|            |          |           |            |           |          |           |                        |          |
|------------|----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------------------|----------|
| <b>KEY</b> | <b>I</b> | <b>ii</b> | <b>iii</b> | <b>IV</b> | <b>V</b> | <b>vi</b> | <b>vii<sup>ø</sup></b> | <b>I</b> |
|            | <b>1</b> | <b>2m</b> | <b>3m</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b> | <b>6m</b> | <b>7<sup>ø</sup></b>   | <b>1</b> |

|          |          |     |     |           |           |     |                 |   |
|----------|----------|-----|-----|-----------|-----------|-----|-----------------|---|
| <b>C</b> | <b>C</b> | Dm  | Em  | <b>F</b>  | <b>G</b>  | Am  | B <sup>ø</sup>  | C |
| <b>D</b> | <b>D</b> | Em  | F#m | <b>G</b>  | <b>A</b>  | Bm  | C# <sup>ø</sup> | D |
| <b>E</b> | <b>E</b> | F#m | G#m | <b>A</b>  | <b>B</b>  | C#m | D# <sup>ø</sup> | E |
| <b>F</b> | <b>F</b> | Gm  | Am  | <b>Bb</b> | <b>C</b>  | Dm  | E <sup>ø</sup>  | F |
| <b>G</b> | <b>G</b> | Am  | Bm  | <b>C</b>  | <b>D</b>  | Em  | F# <sup>ø</sup> | G |
| <b>A</b> | <b>A</b> | Bm  | C#m | <b>D</b>  | <b>E</b>  | F#m | G# <sup>ø</sup> | A |
| <b>B</b> | <b>B</b> | C#m | D#m | <b>E</b>  | <b>F#</b> | G#m | A# <sup>ø</sup> | B |

Know your **1, 4, 5, 6m** chords by rote and you'll rule the nation.

Know your **1, 2m, 3m, 4, 5, 6m** chords by rote in each key, and you'll rule the earth.

Know your **1, 2m, 3m, 4, 5, 6m, 7<sup>ø</sup>** chords by rote in each key, and you'll... you know.

## Exercises

\* **In each key, play the 1, 4, 5 chords in order**, two measures each, over and over till they're in your noggin. Then, add in the 6m chord. Then, add in the 2m chord. Practice.

\* **Convert a familiar chord chart into numbers only**, and seek to play by numbers in the most familiar key. Now, play it in a different key, by numbers. Now, play it in 2 more, different keys.

## Extra Chord Notation (flats, sharps and chord extensions)

To denote a slash chord, 1/5 means play the 1 chord with a note in the bass.

To denote a 7th or extension chord, 57 (superscript the 7 if you can) means a V7 chord.

To denote a flat or sharp chord, a "b" or "#" changes the chord. Ex. 3b or 3#

Using Roman Numerals is an option, but for clarity, begin with using standard numbers.