

a. *How to begin playing over them*

- i. Playing over Coltrane changes can be very tricky. You have to think on your toes. You are changing keys every bar practically. The easiest way to start practicing this is to group into the 5-1 relationships you see in the changes. The first chord is not connected to anything except its own major so you should group that with the first 5-1 relationship. For example, in the *Giant Steps* changes I would practice, Bmaj7 to D7, to Gmaj7. That's it! Just practice moving your lines throughout those three harmonies. When you have gotten used to that then you move on to the next chunk, which would be connecting Gmaj7 to the Bb7 chord. Even though this isn't a 5-1 relationship we still need to work on this connection because it is going to be the least familiar. After this we move on to the next chunk, which is the Bb7 to the Ebmaj7. Sounds simple enough so far, right? Now we connect all the chunks together and put together a phrase to play over the entire thing. This is why it is so important to truly be comfortable with each chunk. If one part of the puzzle is missing, it's not going to come together. So we have finished the first phrase of *Giant Steps*. We have a couple more to go so you would continue to practice the same way over the other phrases in this tune. In the next section we will look at how the Coltrane changes fit over a 2-5-1 progression.