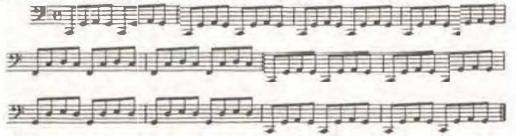
## **Chapter One**

THE BOOGIE WOOGIE STYLE

## What is Boogie Woogie

Boogie Woogie is a twelve-measure Jazz form with a unique rhythm in the bass. The bass features a repeating figure which for the most part takes the form of eight eighth notes to the measure.



It is from its almost characteristic use of an eight-to-the-bar bass figure that Boogie Woogie is sometimes referred to as "Eight to the Bar".

## Lift

Boogie Woogie, like all Jazz, is in 4/4 time. And all Jazz has a "lift" (resulting from the rhythm of Jazz syncopations against a steady beat.) The Boogie Woogie bass being "eight to the bar", makes for a "lift" all its own. It can have the light lift of Pinetop's *Boogie Woogie Blues,* the crashing drive of Meade Lux Lewis's Six Wheel *Chaser,* or the "jump" of Pete Johnson's *Death Ray Boogie.* One cannot limit Boogie Woogie to a specific lift or tempo. As long as the bass figure repeats itself rhythmically within the twelvemeasure form, it's Boogie Woogie.

## **Color and Effects**

Boogie Woogie is an intimate personal expression, very rich in "effect" such as rhythm, color, power, etc. When less conventional notes are used against this bass, the varying shades