

Simple Substitute Chords:

In jazz and Latin styles, it is assumed that the pianist will use the chords provided only as a guideline. Substituting more complex (interesting) chords is a standard practice and an important skill in these styles. Below is a chart for some of the most basic chord substitutions. In each of the three categories, the simplest chords are on the left and the substitute chords are listed to the right in increasing order of complexity.

Minor Triad	Gm	Gm7	Gm9	Gm6	
Dom. 7 th	C	C7	C9	C13	C13b9
Major Triad	F	F6	Fmaj7	Fmaj9	F6/9

In general, substitution is only done by using a chord MORE complex than the one provided. For example, if a piece specified an Fmaj7 chord, the player could choose to substitute an Fmaj9 or an F6/9, but not an F or and F6.

Not all substitutes will work. Some may clash with the melody, or with some other instrument. Don't be afraid to experiment and see what works. Careful listening and a well-trained ear are great assets here.