Keyboard Accompaniment Basics

## PREPARATORY SAMPLES

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TO TEACHERS: By assigning two or three new melodies routinely, students' ability to quickly sense a change of harmony is strengthened. Repeatedly choosing chords, chord variations, progressions, styles, rhythms \& embellishments, the decision-making \& hearing skills are targeted - to a point where creating accompaniment for melodies becomes intuitive.

MUSIC INSTITUTIONS are recognizing 'Creative Keyboard Accompaniment' (at the keyboard) as a subject to receive marks at all grade levels. To have students prepared, the KA BASICS \& MA SERIES challenge students' theoretical \& creative skills, at all levels - through 18 keys.

## FOREWORD

By creating accompaniment for two or three new melodies routinely, the ability to quickly sense a change of harmony is strengthened. By repeatedly choosing chords, progressions, rhythmic styles and bass patterns, both the decision-making and the hearing skills are targeted and stimulated - to a point where creating an appropriate accompaniment becomes intuitive. To help reach this goal, the Keyboard Accompaniment Series provides a wide variety of melodies for practice and enjoyment.

Developing your own expression, exploring chords and experiencing the joy of creating, can be fascinating and exciting! Listen carefully and have fun!

Musically yours,

## Gayle Dunsmoar

## Keyboard Accompaniment PREPARATORY

## RECOMMENDED BOOKS

For VERY BEGINNERS<br>MELODY ADVENTURES PRIMER A \& B<br>along with this book.

## For KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT BEGINNERS

## MELODY ADVENTURES BOOKS 1 \& 2

along with this book.
Not only will you recognize many of the melodies from this book, but the interesting arrangements will provide additional support
for creating your own accompaniment.

## Time Values in $2 / 4,3 / 4 \& 4 / 4$ Time

$$
\oint
$$

$$
\text { Eighth Note }=1 / 2 \text { beat }
$$

$$
\oint \text { Quarter Note = } 1 \text { beat }
$$

$$
\oint \quad \text { Half Note }=2 \text { beats }
$$

$$
\text { d. Dotted Half Note }=3 \text { beats }
$$

- Whole Note $=4$ beats
$\overline{\Longrightarrow \text { E }}$ Eighth Rest $=1 / 2$ beat
$\overline{\overline{\overline{2}}}$ Quarter Rest $=1$ beat
$\overline{\overline{\overline{=}}}$ Half Rest (sits) $=2$ beats
$\Longrightarrow$
$\overline{\overline{\overline{\prime 2}}}$

Whole Rest $=4$ beats in $\frac{4}{4}$ time, or $=1$ measure in any time signature

## Clapping and Counting



## C Major

## The Scale

The Scale is the foundation upon which music is written. All melodies are composed of tones* of a scale in various patterns. Most of the melodies in this book are in the key of C Major. This means the notes are generally from the C Major scale (see below) and for finality, end on the keynote or the home tone which is letter named ' C '.

* Tone: sound that can be sung, hummed or whistled.

Note: Graphic Symbol representing a tone.


The above C Major scale continues for two octaves. An octave is an interval spanning eight letter names. For example: C to the following C is one octave.

| Reminder |
| :---: |
| Always put in dynamics |
| $\boldsymbol{p} \boldsymbol{p}$ very soft $\boldsymbol{p}$ soft |
| $\boldsymbol{m} \boldsymbol{f}$ moderately loud |
| $\boldsymbol{f}$ loud $\boldsymbol{f f}$ very loud |
| Gradually louder |
| Gradually softer |


-
The difference between try and triumph is just a little umph! Marvin Phillips
Sailing


DUET/ACCOMPANIMENT


| Time Signature $\overline{\overline{2}}$ |
| :---: |
| Indicates a time value of <br> 2 quarter notes ( $d$ d $)$ <br> within every measure. |

## Measures with Two




RH \& LH notes that can be reduced to a 3rd (3rds b/w Hands) generally gives a pleasant harmony.

## Exercise

See/hear 6ths/10 ths reduced to '3rds': Cross LH over RH \& play LH note 1 octave higher than written.



## Harmony Crossing (Har $\times$ )



Notes on each side of a Har $<$ are a $6^{\text {th }}$ or $10^{\text {th }}$ apart and can be reduced to $3^{\text {rds }}$ between the hands ( $3 \mathrm{rds} \mathrm{b} / \mathrm{w}$ Hands). Harmony Crossings $(\operatorname{Har}>$ ) are generally on a weak beat.


EXERCISE: repeat pages $6,7 \& 18$ and include 'Harmony Crossings' - as well as the $\mathbf{6}^{\text {ths }} \boldsymbol{\&} \mathbf{1 0}^{\text {ths }}$

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C Major Scale with Auxiliaries (aux.)

Begins 2nd $\mathbf{C}$ below Middle C

Play RH triad I or $\mathbf{V}$ where indicated

Begins 1st $\mathbf{C}$
below Middle C


| $8^{v a--1}$ | Note(s) below are played <br> 1 <br> octave higher than written |
| :---: | :--- |
| $8^{v b--1}$Note(s) above are played <br> 1 |  |
| octave lower than written |  |


| $\mathbf{L H}$ Bass Note $(\mathrm{BN})$ |
| :---: |
| $\bar{G} \downarrow 2^{\text {nd }} \mathbf{G}$ below middle C |
| $\bar{C} \downarrow 2^{\text {nd }} \mathbf{C}$ below middle C |

## LH C2 Position

2nd finger plays $\mathbf{1 s t}^{\text {st }} \mathbf{C}$ below Middle C
Thumb plays 1st $\mathbf{E}$ or $\mathbf{G}$ below Middle C
5th finger plays 2 nd $\mathbf{G}$ below Middle C
Back and Forth

$\mathbf{V}_{(G)}$


Watching the pen-du-lum o
(-6):9

Continue accompaniment with the indicated LH BN


| LH Bass Note (BN) |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| $\overline{\mathbf{3}}$ | 3rd of chord is LH BN |
| $\overline{\mathbf{5}}$ | 5th of chord is LH BN |
| $\overline{\mathbf{7}}$ | 7 th of V7 is LH BN |

Triads/Chords (p 32)


## Cleaning Day



The biggest room in the world is the room for improvement. Unknown

$\frac{\mathrm{V} 7}{7}\left(\frac{G}{F} 7\right) \mathrm{p} 32$


Push-ing the mop a-long; sing-ing a hap - py song, This is the day that I


Write in LH accompaniment. Indicate embellishments.

Aux. on 3rd of chord


LH C2 an octave higher


## Definition for Chord \& Triad

CHORD: combination of notes as a group TRIAD: 3-notes (or implied) root, $3^{\text {rd }} \& 5^{\text {th }}$ BOTH the above can be referred to as chords

I (C) and INVERSIONS

LH Bass Note (BN)
Root $\overline{\mathbf{r}}$
$1^{\text {st }}$ inv. $\frac{3}{5}$
$2^{\text {nd }}$ inv. $\overline{5}$
3 rd inv. $\overline{7}$
Under a line is for $\mathbf{L H}$


* BN not always indicated when it is the root of the chord

V (G) and INVERSIONS


V7 (G7) and INVERSIONS


## Roman Numerals

Triad $\mathbf{I}=\mathbf{C}, \mathbf{E}, \mathrm{G}(\mathbf{G}$ often omitted $)$
Triad $\mathbf{V}=\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{B}, \mathrm{D},(\mathbf{D}$ often omitted $)$
Chord V7 = G, B, D, F (other than 7th often omitted)

## Sur le Pont d'Avignon

Auxiliary on the 7th
7 - Upper auxiliary
$\overline{7}$ e Lower auxiliary


In brackets, write in Letter $B N$ name


DUET/ACCOMPANIMENT: Play as written while "Sur le Pont d'Avignon" is performed 1 octave higher


Sur le Pont d'Avignon, Cont'd


Duet Accompaniment, Cont'd

Time Signature $\overline{\overline{\overline{\overline{2}}}}$
2 strong beats every measure
$>\mathrm{w}>\mathrm{w}$
$\mathrm{w}=$ weak


## Two-Two Encore



DUET/ACCOMPANIMENT: Play as written while "Two-Two Encore" is performed 1 octave higher


## Passing Notes (PN)

Inserted for transition by step from one harmony unit to another.
$\rightarrow$ Passing Notes ascend or descend $\rightarrow$ by scale steps from V(7) - I. Step often omitted. Hands generally move in opposite directions Exception: moving together $\mathbf{3 r d s}^{\mathbf{b}} / \mathbf{w}$ Hands

What's the preferred time signature of the prison pianist?
Cut Time!

## Cutting Time



## A Wish for Cats and Dogs




In brackets, write in Letter names for chords \& BN


The Can-Can: French in origin and traditionally performed by a chorus line of female dancers wearing long skirts, petticoats and black stockings. It is a very energetic dance characterized by high lifting and kicking of the legs.

Split - - (3) p 50
Single Bass Note (-) ascending to 2 or more chord notes ( - )

$$
\downarrow=88-96
$$

$$
\text { In boxes, write in } \mathbf{L H} \mathbf{B N}(\mathbf{r}, \mathbf{3 , 5} \text { or } 7)
$$

The Can-Can


V7


Write in accompaniment $\&$ chord name


Split - - (2) p 50
2 or more notes of the chord ( $\downarrow$ ) descending to a single $\mathrm{BN}(-)$

Motivation comes from within.

## Pretty Flowers



## Chromatic Step (CS)

Closest distance between two keys on the keyboard. Example, $\mathbf{C}$ to $\mathbf{C \#}$.

The Upbeat
This melody begins on the $4^{\text {th }}$ beat. It precedes the first full measure.
(3 missing beats in the final measure)


* Triad notes (root, $3^{\text {rd }}, 5^{\text {th }}$ ) are often effective lowered 1 CS on the beat (Symbol $\downarrow \nearrow$ ) KA BASICS A.

Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call it "the present".

## A Walk in the Park, Cont'd

B. Olatunji


Triad IV ( $F, A, C$ )
$\operatorname{Root}(F)$ is $\mathbf{4}$ scale degrees up from $\mathbf{C}$
Notice: both C \& F triad have a C


Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star


DUET/ACCOMPANIMENT: Play as written while "Twinkle, Twinkle little Star" is performed 1 octave higher.


## Taking the Challenge!



## Create Your Own Accompaniment for Folk Songs

Each of the following melodies can be repeated with different accompaniments.
(Option: change accompaniments within the melody)
Following each melody: Circle the number that represents the hand positions/accompaniments (acc.) tried.
Circle the number that best represents how smoothly the hand positions/acc. changed.
Circle the number that best represents the overall impression (dynamics, timing, embellishments, presentation, etc.)
EMBELLISHMENTS: Auxiliary Note pp 21, 23-27, 34; Harmony Crossing pp 18-54; Passing Note(s) pp 26, 37; Intros pp 38-40, 49, 51 ACCOMPANIMENTS: 3 rds $\mathbf{b} / \mathbf{w}$ hands pp 17-20, 23, 30, 34, 36, 41-47, 54

RIGHT HAND: C1 pp 6-54; D1 pp 42-48, 54; Solid Chords pp 21, 23-28, 32-33, 35, 37, 49, 68
LEFT HAND: C5 pp 6-7, 11, 14-21, 23, 25, 27-54; C1 pp 8-10, 12-13, 47; C2 (with \& without solid chords) pp 24-27, 35, 41, 50-51 Alternating Bass pp 50-51; Solid Chords pp 32-33, 38-40, 52, 68; Split ——or — pp 40-45, 50

Write in a comfortable metronome tempo $0=$ $\qquad$




## Lavender's Blue



Hand positions/acc. 12 $\qquad$
Smooth changes 12
Overall impression 12 (includes embellishments) Total


## Old Folks at Home



## Note Helpers

'Note Helpers' are suggestions.
You could find your own helpers!

Spaces


Lines


## Help Needed!

Write note name on the line below


## FROM THE AUTHOR



Gayle MacAulay Dunsmoor
BRAVO! You have completed KA PREPARATORY and are well on your way to creating

GREAT ACCOMPANIMENTS

