

Teaching Accompaniment 1
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

Overview - Accompaniment Skills

Accompaniment 1

- Provide a foundation
- 3 shapes
- Finding I-IV-V
- 12 chords every key ("Inheriting")

Accompaniment Variations

- Add rhythmic interest

Fake Books

- Incorporate all chords taught in Accompaniment 1
- Use to process all skills learned to this point and beyond

Accompaniment 2

- More advanced rhythm tracks
- Transpose beyond I-IV-V
- Embellishing

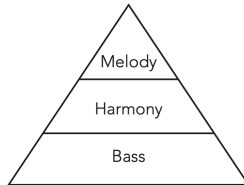
Create Solo Arrangements

- From lead sheets
- Not part of Simply Music curriculum
- Incorporates Reading, Accompaniment, understanding of how chords are built

Teaching Accompaniment 1
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

Laying Groundwork with Students

1. Clarify the Role of Accompaniment



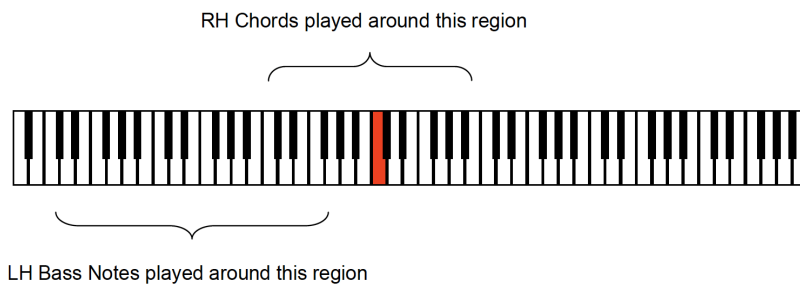
2. Teach Terminology

- Lead Sheet
- Measures
- Time signature top number ("cycles of ____") - Ratio

3. Chord Shapes

- Conceptual only at this point - write in all shapes p. 4
- CP straight chords: _____,
_____, _____,
- MAJOR chords - need to know terminology

4. Appropriate Range



Teaching Accompaniment 1
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

Teaching Tips

1. Say Chord Shapes Aloud

- When beginning a piece in the book

2. Teaching Chord Shapes

- Begin with Straights (C-F-G)
- Add Triangles (D-E-A)
- Add Curve (B)
- Consider supplementing with other pieces
Continue in same manner with black note chords & Danny Boy

3. Reinforce Major Chord Shapes

- Outside the context of the Acc 1 songs
- Random checks
- Chord Drill

4. Finding I - IV - V

- Discuss why this is relevant
- Take your time teaching this concept!
- Start with Acc 1 pieces
- *Come back to this project* from time to time as a review

Teaching Accompaniment 1
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

5. Teaching New Chords

- Discuss different sounds/moods of different chords
- Clarify the chord chart triangle “generic” symbol
- Discuss the term “inheriting” vs. new learning
- Process Acc 1 pieces with new chords

6. Introduce Fake Books

- Practice all of the content from Acc 1 in new pieces
- Incorporate all subsequent Accompaniment skills
- Some of my favorite Fake Books:

[Disney Fake Book 4th Ed.](#)

[Ultimate Pop/Rock Fake Book](#)

[The Real Pop Book](#)

[The Real Rock Book](#)

[Ultimate Broadway Fake Book 5th Ed.](#)

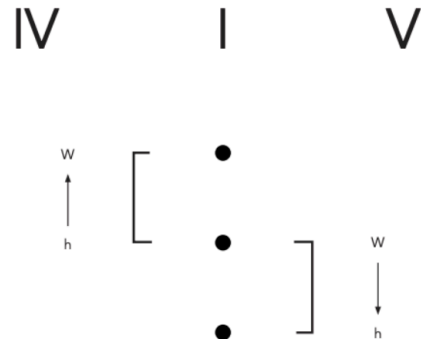
[The Beatles Fake Book](#)

Additional Resources

1. Neil's I-IV-V chart

I root, IV & V inversions

Available in [Teacher Library](#)



I IV V - major

2. Chord Structure Crash Course

Available in Ivory League Store [HERE](#)

- Develop ability to figure out most chord symbols
- Chord voicing and chord alterations
- Increase understanding of jazz chords

3. Shape Songs

Available in Ivory League Store [HERE](#)

- Songs and lyrics crafted to help master the 12 major chords
- Includes Teacher Training and Student Home Materials

4. Acc Hacks

Available in Ivory League Store [HERE](#)

- Includes the revolutionary ChordConverter app, making any outside piece doable any time after learning the 12 Major chords
- Includes Teacher Training and Student Home Materials

Teaching Accompaniment 1
2024 MTC/ILC Virtual Retreat
Laurie Richards

5. Acc Knacks

Available in Ivory League Store [HERE](#)

Comprehensive support for:

- Accompaniment 1
- Accompaniment Variations
- Cross-pollinating chord knowledge across the entire Curriculum
- Diving deeper into understanding chord structure and usage.
- Includes Teacher Training and Student Home Materials

6. The Chord Drill

Available in Simply Music Store [HERE](#) (Supplemental Programs)

Systematic review of all chords in every key

- Part 1 provides a systematic and fun way of thoroughly processing all 12 Accompaniment 1 chords in every key, including the less commonly used chords which can often seem more difficult to remember
- Part 2 of the program, 'The Chord Drill – Challenges', develops skills beyond Accompaniment 1, taking the usage of chords to a whole new level

7. "Songs for...." Series

Available in Simply Music Store (Supplemental Programs)

These programs provide additional source material for Accompaniment 1, including several levels of challenge you may incorporate as developmentally appropriate

- Songs for Children
- Songs for Everyone
- Songs for Christmas