

Accompaniments & Playing from a Fake Book

Most music can be thought of as a melody and chords that go with it. "Fake Books" are collections of music that print music in this way. This version of a piece of music is called a "lead sheet" or a "fake sheet".

The simplest way to bring a melody to life is to turn the chords into a good broken chord accompaniment with your left hand.

Here's the lead sheet version of "Twinkle Little Star", followed by several versions with different LH's.

The image shows the lead sheet for "Twinkle Little Star" in 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. Above the melody, the chords are indicated: C, F, C, F, C, G, C. Below the melody, three different broken chord accompaniments (LH's) are shown, each on a treble clef staff. The first accompaniment uses chords C, F, C, F, C, G, C. The second accompaniment uses chords C, F, C, G, C, F, C, G. The third accompaniment uses chords C, F, C, F, C, G, C.

With lead sheets, there is not even a bass clef printed. You must learn to make up your own arrangement. This will also help you read music better, because you will recognize patterns better and will not read one note at a time.

This procedure will help you play electric keyboards and synthesizers, when the standard piano arrangements do not sound well.

Also, if you wish to compose your own music, approach composing from a melody and broken chord accompaniment perspective.

Twinkle uses the chords of basic harmony. The first chord (C) is used with the 1st, 3rd & 5th scale notes (C, E, & G) in the melody. The fourth chord (F) is used with the 4th & 6th scale notes (F & A), and the fifth chord (G) is used with scale notes 2 & 7 (D & B) in the melody. Other chord possibilities will be explored further in book 3 of "Theory For Piano Players"!!!

Experiment and have fun!!!