



Boogie Piano

"Boogie" style is an important part of modern popular music. It grew out of older "Blues" songs, and Blues and Boogie can't be completely separated. This book includes some of both. Boogies are faster than Blues and have strong, rhythmic left hands using mostly eighth notes.

Early Boogie and Blues songs had very repetitive melodies and chord patterns. This made it easy for the players to remember the song, and freed them up to make rhythm and melodic variations. Improvising with different rhythms around the melody is an important part of boogie piano playing.

Rhythm is the first and most important part of modern popular music. Most modern music can be played just as written (straight), or it can swing!!!!

In swing rhythm, the eighth note on each count is longer than the eighth note on count "&". Usually the main counts are twice as long as the "&'s".

(See "Boogie Study #4, Swing" on page 33, and "Rhythm" on page 120)



This book features progressively more difficult Boogie and Blues. I have written down the sequence of music I use with my students. This develops playing skill along with improvising technique. There are pieces and exercises (studies) using piano playing patterns which have emerged all over our great country in the last one hundred years. My grateful thanks go out to the thousands of players who have developed these patterns (called "licks"), and I add some of my own.

There are also some traditional, familiar songs, arranged Boogie style. "When The Saints Go Marching In" is arranged three ways thru the book, to demonstrate the development of the style.

Above all, have fun and keep your foot tapping that rhythm!!!!

Howard Pancoast
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