

Simply Fake: 100 Songs in 3 easy keys

A large-print entry level fake book

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What is a fake book?

A fake book is a book of well-known songs written in a simplified “outline” form. In a fake book, the music doesn’t have separate left hand and right hand parts all written out. Rather, the melody notes are written and chord symbols are shown above the melody.

Why is it so useful?

This allows a beginning to intermediate pianist to make songs sound much fuller and more interesting by adding a creative touch to the outline of the song. This is done by varying the left hand rhythm patterns and/or adding ornaments or “jazzy” improvisations to the melody. Suggestions for how to do both left hand and right hand techniques are included in this book.

How should I use this book to learn to play fake songs?

Work on the songs by key – see Key Lists page 128-130 at the end of the book. (Example, all the songs in the Key of C, then the Key of F, etc.) For each key, play the bold type songs first, they have the simplest rhythms. Just use solid chords for the left hand.

After you can play many of the songs in different keys try changing the left hand rhythms – see page 131 at the end of the book showing various fairly simple left hand rhythm patterns. The easiest will be 4-beat or 3-beat left hands.

After you can do many songs with a 4-beat left hand, try the broken triplets or some of the other rhythms.

Finally, you can add some additional “ornaments” or “embellishments” to the right hand melody by adding extra eighth notes, or grace notes, or broken chord “fills” to fill out the melody. There is an example of Twinkle Little Star – see pages 126-127 at the end of the book that shows how some of these different rhythms or embellishments would look if printed out.

Enjoy and have fun!

All of the songs in this book are (to the best of my knowledge) in the public domain, but the arrangements and harmonization are copyright, Heartsounds Music, 2006.

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