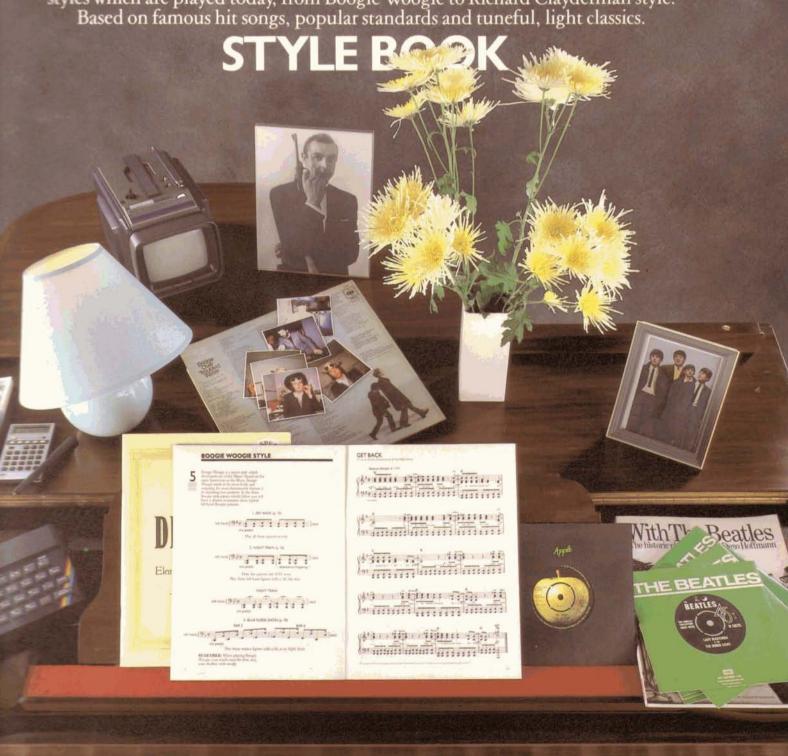


by Kenneth Baker.

Designed to help you become a complete, all-round pianist. Teaches you seventeen styles which are played today, from Boogie Woogie to Richard Clayderman style.

Based on famous hit songs, popular standards and tuneful, light classics.



THE COMPLETE PIANO PLAYER STYLE BOOK

'By the end of this book you will be putting all your piano-playing skills to work in a number of fascinating new styles. You will be playing 22 popular songs, including: Bridge Over Troubled Water, Ballade Pour Adeline, Money, Money, Money, and The James Bond Theme.'

Kenneth Baker

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ABOUT THIS BOOK

This is the last book in 'The Complete Piano Player' series.

To help you become a complete, all-round player, it has been arranged as a series of piano **styles**. You will learn Boogie Style, Block Chord Style, Country Style, Modern Blues Style, Unison Octave Style, and so on.

As usual, you will be working with popular standards and famous hit songs, interspersed with a few tuneful classics.

You need not play every piece in the exact order given. For example, although the three Boogie Woogie pieces are placed together for convenience, you could insert a slower number, such as 'Stardust', or one of the two Minuets in between, as light relief.

Don't lose touch with Books One to Five of the series. Most of your basic information is there, and will need revising from time to time.

To build your repertoire further, look at 'The Complete Piano Player Songbooks'. These are available at various levels of difficulty.

Good luck with your piano playing.

<u>|</u>

Low F, G, A, and B for left hand.



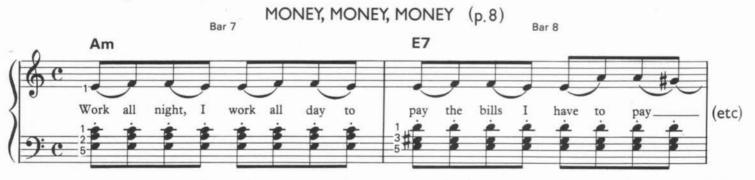


FOUR IN A BAR AND EIGHT IN A BAR POP STYLE

In this simple but effective style your left hand plays a chord, or octave, on every beat of the bar:



For variation your left hand can play twice as many chords - one chord on each quaver of the bar:



Although the left hand seems simple enough, this style usually involves a good deal of syncopation in the right hand. As

with all syncopated pieces, keep your left hand rock-steady throughout.



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY Words & Music: Benny Andersson & Bjorn Ulvaeus





BRUBECK STYLE

3

The Dave Brubeck Quartet was well known in the '50s for its own particular brand of Modern Jazz.

The following piece, *Take Five*, was written by the group's alto saxophonist: Paul Desmond. The Time Signature is

unusual: five crotchets (quarter notes) in a bar. Think of these as **three** crotchets followed by **two**. The basic left hand figure, which appears in Bar 1, will give you the feel of the rhythm.

TAKE FIVE

By Paul Desmond

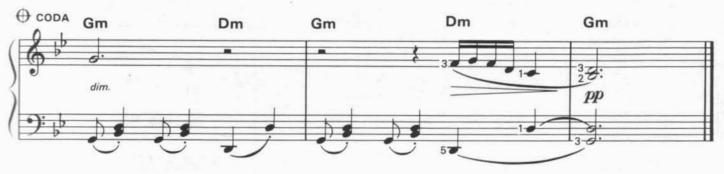












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OFF BEAT STYLE

4

Playing on the 'off beat' means playing in between the main beats of a piece. In Hoagy Carmichael's famous *Stardust*, you generate a nice rhythmic flow by playing 'off beat' chords softly with your

right hand while your left hand plays melody notes on the beat (see Bars 1 and 2, for example).

In Bars 11 and 12 the situation is reversed: your left hand plays off beat 'G's' while your right hand plays the melody (on the beat).

STARDUST

Words: Mitchell Parish. Music: Hoagy Carmichael





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BOOGIE WOOGIE STYLE

5

Boogie Woogie is a piano style which developed out of the 'Blues'. Based on the same harmonies as the Blues, Boogie Woogie tends to be more lively and outgoing. Its most characteristic feature is its repeating bass patterns. In the three Boogie-style pieces which follow you will have a chance to practise three typical left hand Boogie patterns:



Play all these quavers evenly.

2. NIGHT TRAIN (p. 16)



Here the quavers are NOT even. Play these left hand figures with a 'lilt', like this:









Play these octave figures with a lilt, as in Night Train.

Remember: When playing Boogie Woogie your touch must be firm and your rhythm rock-steady.

GET BACK

Words & Music: John Lennon & Paul McCartney

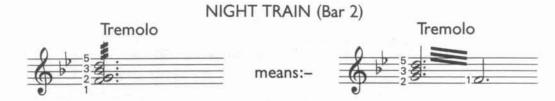


THE TREMOLO AGAIN

6

In Bar 2 of Night Train (and elsewhere in the same piece), you will see an alternative way of writing a 'tremolo':

Turn back to page 42 in Book Five of *The Complete Piano Player* and read again about how to do 'tremolos'.



NIGHT TRAIN

Words: Oscar Washington and Lewis C. Simpkins. Music: Jimmy Forrest





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7

Blue Suede Shoes, recorded by Elvis Presley in 1956, is one of the most famous rock 'n' roll songs.

This arrangement uses the most active of our three Boogie Woogie bass patterns. When practising it, stress the left hand fifth finger notes.

BLUE SUEDE SHOES

Words & Music: Carl Lee Perkins



loco (play in the normal place)

* Play one octave (eight notes) lower than written.



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8

The Minuet, a graceful dance of French origin, was popular in the 17th and 18th Centuries. It is in ³⁄₄ Time.

Here are two famous Minuets, one written specially for the piano by Beethoven, the other taken from a string quartet by Boccherini.

MINUET IN G

By: Ludwig Van Beethoven



MINUET (FROM "STRING QUARTET")

By Luigi Boccherini



*Trill, or shake. An ornament consisting of the rapid alternation of the written note and the note directly above it. For the first trill (above) use F# and G#, for the second trill (above) use B and C#.

MODERN BLUES STYLE



Many of the original Blues songs and instrumental solos were based on a simple 12-bar harmonic sequence. You have already played two pieces of this type: *Swingin' Shepherd Blues* (Book Five, page 14), and *Night Train* (Book Six, page 16).

The next piece, *Like Young*, by André Previn, is a blues written in a Modern Jazz style. In addition to the usual twelve bars based on blues harmonies, there are eight extra bars inserted into the middle for contrast. These 'middle 8' bars modulate skilfully through the keys of G, A flat, and A, before returning to the original key of B flat for a repeat of the main theme.

LIKE YOUNG

By: André Previn





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MOVING SEMITONE CHORD STYLE

10

A semitone, or half step, is the distance between any piano key and the next nearest key (black or white):



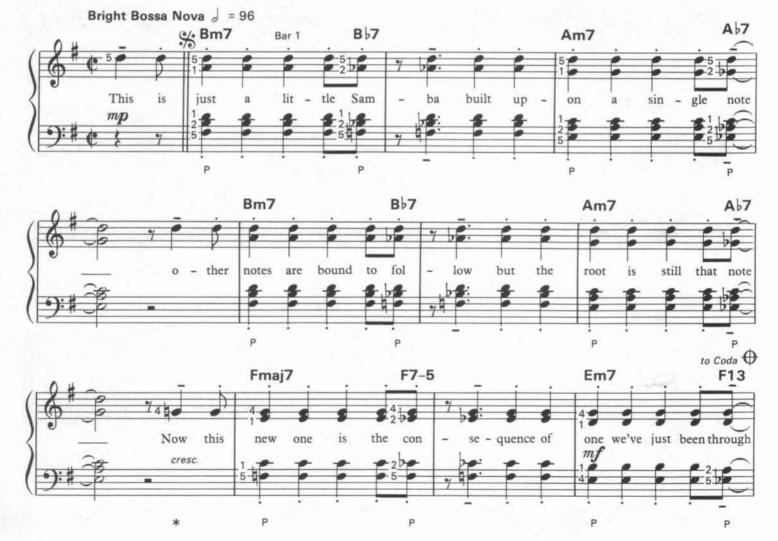
In the next piece: *One Note Samba*, you play a full chord style in which the chords move almost continuously in semitones. This semitone movement is usually downwards (Bars 1-15, for

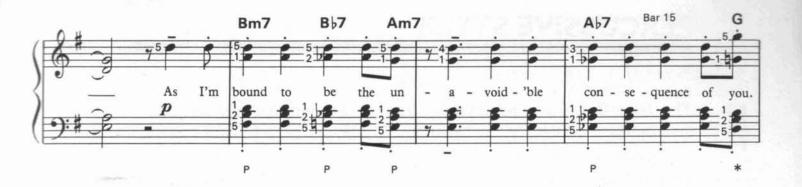
example), but is occasionally upwards (Bars 19, 20, 23).

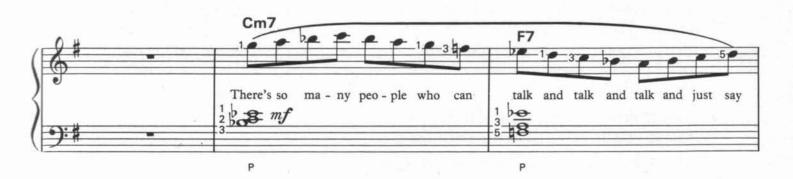
Study each hand separately and note carefully where the semitone movements occur.

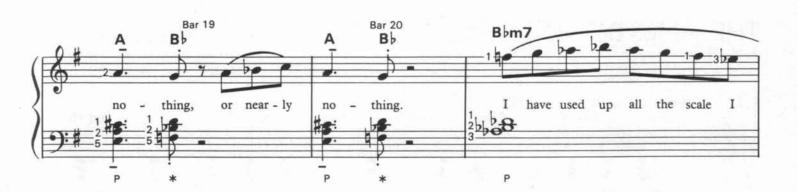
ONE NOTE SAMBA (SAMBA DE UMA NOTA SO)

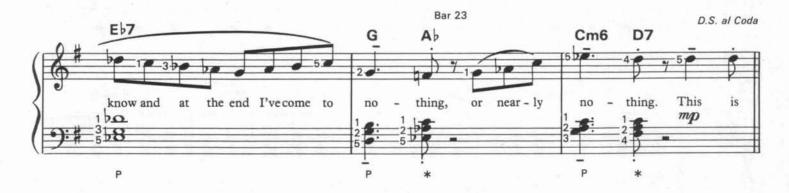
Music: Antonio Carlos Jobim. Original Words: N. Mendonca. English Lyric: Jon Hendricks

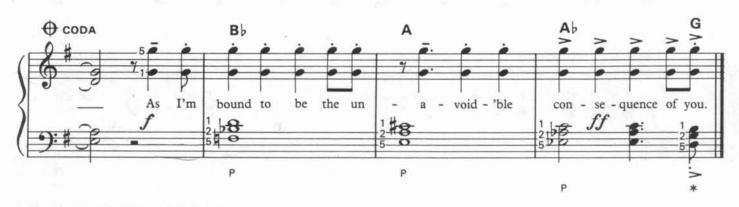












PERCUSSIVE STYLE



The *James Bond Theme* relies for its effect on a hard, percussive style of playing.

The piece starts dramatically with a legato left hand counter melody which has become famous. As well as playing this counter melody, your left hand plays repeated bass E's, staccato, to keep the rhythm going. Above this your right hand plays off beat chords (see Off-Beat Style, page 12).

The main theme begins at Bar 5, with spiky, repeated chords in the right hand.

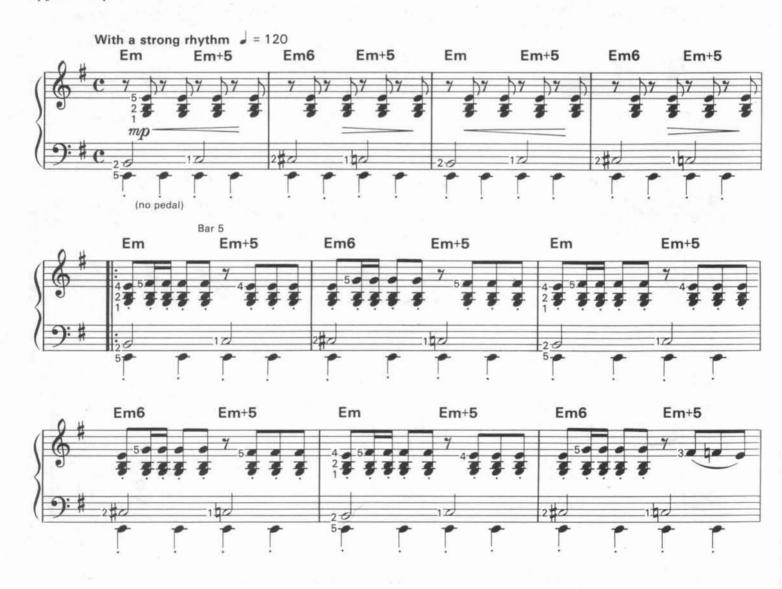
The Middle Section of the piece (marked

'swingy'), is driven along by a solid 4-to-a-bar left hand, moving mainly in semitones.

In the **Coda** both hands play the same notes, so simply copy your right hand with your left. Observe the phrasing here. The piece ends with a discordant two-handed tremolo, played very loudly.

THE JAMES BOND THEME

By John Barry





RICHARD CLAYDERMAN STYLE

12

Richard Clayderman is a young pianist who brings a classical piano style to popular music.

For much of *Ballade Pour Adeline* your left hand plays an 'open broken chord' type of accompaniment (see Book Five, page 46).

Notice the solitary $\frac{2}{4}$ Bar (Bar 14) in amongst the $\frac{4}{4}$ bars. Think of this as an incomplete bar. Count 1, 2, then carry on again from '1', as if nothing had happened.

A 'wrist staccato' technique (see Book Two, page 44) is called for in the right hand in Bars 2, 5, 6, and elsewhere.

BALLADE POUR ADELINE

Composer: Paul de Senneville





^{*}Play one octave (eight notes) higher than written.

COUNTRY STYLE

13

This is an American popular music style, notable for its simple harmonies and uncomplicated rhythms.

Originally country music was played on fretted stringed instruments such as guitar, banjo, and mandolin. Country style piano playing tends to imitate these instruments in some respects. One of the most common characteristics of the style is the 'hammer on' technique, common in guitar playing. Here the guitarist plucks an open string, then quickly places his finger on the same string, causing the note to rise (usually to the next highest note):

IT'S ALL IN THE GAME (Bar 2)

with an upper note added:



hammering on

Another device borrowed from fretted instrument players is 'finger-picking'. This is where the guitarist (or banjoist) alternates in his right hand between the thumb and other fingers. You will find examples of this technique adapted to the piano in Bars 8 and 13 (right hand).

IT'S ALL IN THE GAME

Music: Charles G. Dawes. Words: Carl Sigman





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BLOCK CHORD STYLE

|4

This style was developed for the piano by George Shearing in the late '40s.

The two main elements of the style are:

- 1. The right hand plays the melody in chords.
- 2. The left hand doubles the melody, in single notes only, one octave lower.

In Bars 9–18 of *Don't Blame Me*, I have changed from block chord style to open chord style for the sake of contrast.

DON'T BLAME ME

Words & Music: Jimmy McHugh and Dorothy Fields





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P

P

Lullaby of Birdland is George Shearing's own composition.

The Middle Section (Bars 11-18) is written in Block Chord style. To make this part easier to play, quite a few single notes have been used in the right hand. This is common practice when playing block chords in faster pieces.

LULLABY OF BIRDLAND

Music: George Shearing. Words George David Weiss





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UNISON OCTAVE STYLE



This is a brilliant and impressive solo style for piano, but it does involve a lot of jumping about.

The melody is played by both hands in unison, two octaves apart. In between playing melody notes both hands travel down the keyboard to add accompanying chords.

As with *Gymnopédie No 1*, in Book Five (page 22), you must get used to finding your place in the music after looking down at the keyboard.

MARIA ELENA

Music: Lorenzo Barcelata. English lyric: S.K. Russell





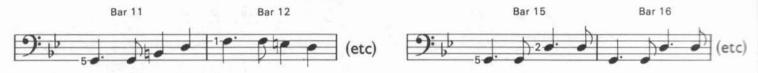
FAST LATIN STYLE

16

In *Mrs Robinson* your left hand plays the basic Bossa Nova rhythm pattern given in Book Four, page 44:

but with variations:

MRS ROBINSON



MRS ROBINSON

Words & Music: Paul Simon





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NOVELTY PIANO STYLE

Novelty piano solos were popular in the '20s, and beyond. They were usually based on 'swing' piano styles, the basic accompaniments of which consisted of:

'bass note, chord, bass note, chord', and so on.

One of the best of these novelty pieces is Nola:

NOLA

By: Felix Arndt





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CONTEMPORARY FOLK STYLE

18

In this style modern musical techniques (such as new rhythms, the use of amplified instruments, etc), are applied to traditional style songs.

In *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, a huge success for Simon and Garfunkel in 1970, a Bossa Nova bass line has been added to the song in order to give it a modern style rhythm.

BRIDGE OVER TROUBLED WATER

Words & Music: Paul Simon





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ROCK BOOGIE STYLE

19

This is a mixture of a modern rock style tune with a boogie woogie bass line.

In Lady Madonna, one of The Beatles' later recordings, there is a fine, varied 8 to the bar bass line, which combines boogie patterns with a walking bass. The climax of the piece comes in Bars 15 and 16, where the bass movement stops, temporarily. The theme and boogie bass then pick up again and we go out comparatively quietly.

LADY MADONNA

Words & Music: John Lennon and Paul McCartney





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LAST WORD

This is the end of The Complete Piano Player Style Book, the last book in The Complete Piano Player series. You can now consider yourself a good, all-round pianist. But you do need to enlarge your repertoire. For this, use The Complete Piano Player Songbooks. They contain fabulous new pieces at all levels, written in the style of The Complete Piano Player books.

We end this book on piano styles with a classical piece by one of the greatest stylists in music: Edvard Grieg.

WEDDING DAY AT TROLDHAUGEN

By: Edvard Grieg



*March tempo, but a little more lively





*Play 16 notes (2 octaves) higher than written.

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THE COMPLETE PIANO PLAYER

This style book is designed to help you become a complete, all-round pianist. It can be used by anyone who has followed The Complete Piano Player or a course of similar standard. Based on famous hit songs, popular standards and light classics, it teaches

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How to sit correctly.
The piano keyboard.
Musical timing and the beat.
Developing your sense of rhythm.
Keyboard Chart: helps you locate and learn the notes of the piano with no trouble at all.
Plus 24 popular tunes to play, including

Annie's Song . . . She Loves You.

Book 2

New notes for right and left hands.

Wrist staccato.

Two tunes with one hand.

Hard Day's Night . . .

Plus 22 popular tunes, including

Take Me Home Country Road . . .

Chord symbols.

Bright Eyes.

Book 4
The pedals.
Syncopation.
Broken chord style.
Left hand fills.

More piano techniques. Plus 22 popular songs including Don't Cry For Me Argentina . . .

My Way . . . Hello Young Lovers.



Book 5

Dynamics in music. Tremolo.

Phrasing again.

New left hand rhythm pattern.

Plus 20 more popular tunes including

The Entertainer . . . House Of The Rising Sun . . . Pink Panther Theme.



Book 3
Chord pyramids.
Accompaniment patterns.
Phrasing.

More left hand melody playing. Plus 22 popular tunes including Raindrops Keep Fallin' On My Head... Somewhere My Love... Fascination.



Kenneth Baker, who wrote this fascinating course, is one of the country's leading authorities on keyboard playing. His many books are standard works and have sold millions of copies world wide, in English and other languages. They are used in both schools and colleges. The Complete Piano Player aims at making you an accomplished pianist in the shortest possible time.

Nothing has been overlooked in making this course easy, enjoyable and rewarding. Its aim is to teach you to make interesting music on the piano in the shortest possible time. Based throughout on today's popular songs and on famous light classics, it assumes no knowledge of either the piano or of music. Yet from the beginning you will be playing songs such as Annie's Song . . . Can't Buy Me Love . . . Singin' In The Rain. Among the modern songwriters whose music you will find yourself playing with ease are: The Beatles . . . Elton John . . . and many more: while classical composers are represented by such great names as Beethoven and Mozart. Step by easy step, the programme lays a solid musical foundation. You acquire sound technique and learn to play in any style with confidence. By the end of the course you will have a wonderful gift – the ability to play the kind of music you like best.