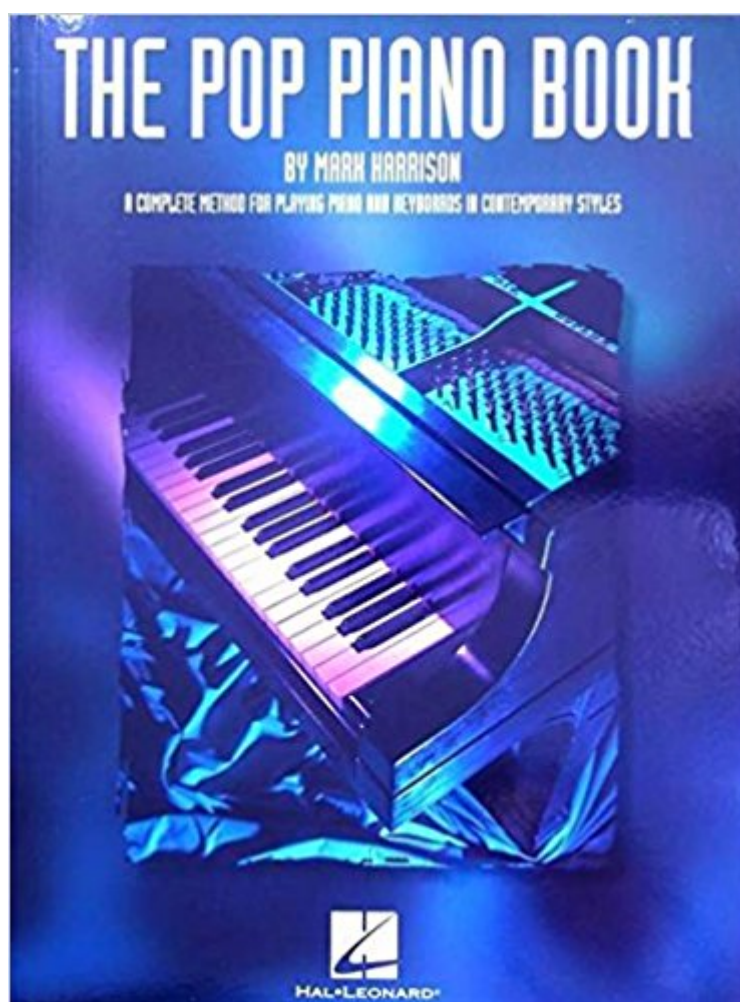


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# The Pop Piano Book



## Synopsis

(Piano). This cutting-edge keyboard method is a total step-by-step approach to creating keyboard parts spontaneously. Rhythmic and harmonic concepts are applied in all keys, and are then used as a basis for developing specific solutions in rock, pop, ballad, funk, new age, country and gospel styles. Endorsed by Grammy winners, top educators, and Keyboard magazine.

## Book Information

Paperback: 512 pages

Publisher: Harrison Music Education Systems; 2nd edition (May 1, 1998)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 9 x 1.2 x 12 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.5 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (34 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #316,110 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #169 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Songbooks > Combination Piano, Vocal, & Guitar](#) #441 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Popular](#) #564 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Techniques](#)

## Customer Reviews

Keyboardists can use this book as well. The first part details basics (chords, scales, etc) real quickly (I guess experienced users wont need the basics in detail) The second part goes through genres specifically. (pop ballad, rock, r&b, gospel, country etc)Parts are split up among accompanying and melody leading. A beginner with no background will have no idea how to use this book. It is not a manual, more of a reference book for popular piano styles. Not for beginners, for the experienced. There isn't too much text explaining things. More of it showing and the reader to understand, digest and improvise. So you need some prehand understanding.Excellent book no doubt.I do have complaints though. First the binding is terrible. My book's pages started falling apart very quickly. I needed to go to a publisher friend of mine who took it apart and rebinded it for me. I may have had to lose the pretty cover but now it is sturdy. Second the paper is made of somewhat heavy stock making the book itself very large and weighty. I'm sure this contributed to the book falling apart.

This could be a very good technique book as well for people who want to learn popular piano if it is

read and used carefully. He has an abundance of technical exercises in rhythm patterns, which is something that cannot be gained from Hanon, the king of technical exercise books. Many teachers are not very good at teaching popular piano, instead preferring to reinterpret it as classical music (which is not appropriate given its different rhythm patterns and key signatures--often less complicated than those in classical). This was written by a man who teaches popular piano and has a very clear idea of the rhythm patterns that make that unique. For example: He makes extensive use of the tie line and syncopation in his examples of R&B, which is what one finds in real music of this genre. But it is very hard to get that type of practice if learning classical songs. As it has been noted before, the binding for this book sucks. But there are ways to get around that. Also: This seems to encompass almost everything in other basic theory books that I have read/ own. It has actually obviated my other theory/ rhythm books. It will be a good saving of money to invest in this before any others. Finally: The book CAN be used by beginners (in tandem with learning some scales) if it is used as he recommends. He says in the opening pages that it was written/ designed to be used by people at myriad levels.

I have been playing the piano for over 13 years, mostly classical, more recently jazz and pop, but I've never been very pleased with my contemporary piano skills. Most books that teach the techniques of contemporary styles assume the reader has little or no playing background and don't progress very far beyond the basics, clearly not much help for the serious player. However, The Pop Piano Book is precisely the book I've been looking for!! This book is perfect for the intermediate or advanced player who aspires to be a master of contemporary styles. With this book you can learn how to interpret a song in numerous modern styles, and learn the subtleties that will demonstrate your total understanding and mastery of each style. The Jazz Piano Book by Mark Levine is my jazz bible, and Mark Harrison's Pop Piano Book has taken a place right beside it as my contemporary piano guide. It is phenomenal!

This book is really a great resource for musicians who want to improve their style in pop ballad, gospel, new age music, ... I would advise it to anyone who already has some basic notion of how to 'fake' a song = interpret a song based only on a lead sheet (melody + chords), and who wants to go further. The author gives lots of examples, breaking them down in basic components, and analysing them. He gives hundreds of patterns of accompaniment (arpeggios, chord voicings, rhythmic patterns). A warning: the title 'The Pop Piano Book - A complete method for playing piano and keyboards in contemporary styles', is misleading. This book is definitely NOT intended for beginners.

Rather for people who already have a few years of experience on the piano (correct fingering, and independence of hands), and preferably have some notion of note reading (although the purpose of the book is of course to be able to play music without having to read notes).

I've been working out of this book for a few weeks now and it's excellent. I consider myself an intermediate at piano, I'm completely self-taught and never taken piano lessons. I just got fake books and taught myself. However this book fills in a huge whole (for me). It gives patterns in different styles. So after completing this book, when I read a fake book I'll have lots of patterns to choose from. As the others said, this isn't a book for beginners. Someone with years of piano lessons can probably go right through it, whereas I spend 30 minutes just on a couple patterns. If you're a novice and don't mind spending a lot of time practicing, you can greatly benefit from this book as well. Finally, I purchased the MIDI files from Mark Harrison's website. I strongly recommend these if you're not a really good piano player. I mute each hand while playing the other while learning each hand. It's very helpful.

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