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Gospel Keyboard Styles: A Complete Guide To Harmony, Rhythm And Melody In Authentic Gospel Style (Harrison Music Education Systems)



Synopsis

(Piano). This book digs into the authentic gospel stylings associated with great artists such as Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin. The first part of the book deals with the 3/4 or Slow Gospel style (used in the song "Amazing Grace," for example), showing the harmonic techniques needed to create the real gospel sound on the piano. The second part focuses on the 4/4 or Fast Gospel style, where gospel harmonies are combined with up-tempo rhythms and syncopations to create exciting results (such as in Paul Simon's song "Gone at Last"). The techniques covered in this book will help you lead your congregation at the piano, and will inject new ideas into your rock, R&B and funk playing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was a classical pianist for most of my life and have recently gotten more acquainted with jazz, blues, rock and now gospel. This book gets you started with gospel patterns that will make you sound like a gospel pianist who has been playing for many years! This book gets you started on different patterns, which shows you how to incorporate them into gospel chord progressions and pieces with melodies such as hymns. They provide examples on how to incorporate what you learn in the book in chord progressions and hymns and provide exercises which you can practice. It also gives you information on pentatonic scales, chords, mixolydian mode, grace notes ect. The book gets you familiar with patterns used for slow gospel in 3/4 time and fast gospel in 4/4 time. This book is really good for those who can already read music and have a basic understanding of

keyboard harmony. This book has some great sounding material but unfortunately does not come with a CD but if you can sight read the material, you really don't need a CD. This has got to be among the best if not the best book on gospel piano.

I play quite a bit, so my standards for what a book might be able to teach me are pretty high. I was pleased with this book because it doesn't keep everything so simple that even a seasoned player can't get something out of it. At the same time, it stays basic enough that someone who plays moderately well could play the examples and understand the theory with a little effort. One feature I liked was that Mr. Harrison would provide a very basic example with a chord structure and then proceed to "realize" it a couple of different ways so that you could read the notes that he might recommend you play. Because he gives you a few options of how he might play it, you really have the ability to pick up riffs and patterns that you might not otherwise. This is a well written and conceived book.

Harrison's book focuses on theory and patterns that can serve as a foundation for a gospel sound. I am self-taught at piano and I've found it helpful to get so many snippets and patterns that I can practice individually and then later build into complete songs. As an aside, I would not recommend this book if you are a beginner or if you are uncomfortable with theory terms like "dominant 7th" or "mixolidian mode." That said, you also do not need to be a PhD in theory to follow this: a basic understanding is enough to get started with all the patterns to practice. Lastly, as you can probably infer, for me this book is not about teaching you how to play a single specific song, but rather about teaching you the patterns and common practice sounds that you can use to create and embellish any gospel song. I should add that I am also starting to use Ethel Caffie-Austin's wonderful "Learn to Play Gospel" DVD at this time, and I am finding it really helpful to use both of these resources at once. The Harrison book gives me patterns and theory that I use for practice drills, and the Caffie-Austin DVD gives me a less theoretical approach with very beautiful playable songs. I have a feeling that if I keep working diligently with both of these for a few more months, I might be able to play Gospel the way I really want to.

I purchased this book (which I basically like) and then later purchased "The Pop Piano Book" by the same author. I was annoyed to find that this book is copied verbatim - every word, every example - as chapters 17 and 18 in the larger book. I would assume this is the case with some of the other single-genre books as well. If you think you're going to want to buy a couple of these Hal Leonard

piano styles books, I'd suggest just getting the Pop book instead.

Kindle Version is pretty bad. This review applies to the Kindle version only. The music in this version is very small even when looking at it on a computer with a large screen. The picture of the sheet music looks low resolution. I asked for a refund. I don't know about the paperback version of the book, but don't buy the kindle version

everything has been splended in my study of what i call, rich gospel music. Look forward for research more of the older style of music. Thank you for give me such a head start.

This book has some good progressions to practice but the verbal descriptions of these progressions I found incomprehensible.

This book is a great starting point for R & B, and related key board players. The material is straight forward and takes the reader through the steps of organizing an excellent progression. I recommend this book for producers, song writers and people beginning in the gossiple style playing in churches.

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