

Advanced Solo Piano Series Part 2 - Establishing Time with Various Tempos and Styles

Once you get comfortable with voicings and how to arrange your hands, the majority of playing solo piano is about creating a solid time while you play. Without the feeling of a consistent tempo, a fairly easy tune can begin to fall apart.

There a number of different methods we can use to set up the time of a tune depending upon the feel of the tune. Take a look at these different textures we can use when establishing a tempo

1. Left Hand Bass Notes and Chords- Broken Stride
2. Full Stride
3. Walking Bass Lines
4. RH Improv
5. RH Chords Comping with LH Bass
6. RH + LH Two Handed Comping Chords

When to establish the tempo may be another question you've asked. When playing solo piano it's entirely up to you to decide this. I've heard Bill Evans solo piano in which he practically never establishes a tempo. You could also start tune and go right into the tempo from the beginning. This factor is pretty much up to you.