

Vocab & Repertoire

1. Advanced Solo Piano Series Part 1 - Overview

- a.* Solo piano contains A LOT of different elements that come together to form a complete solo sound. Some of these elements include the voicings you use, how you combine the melody with your LH, various rhythmic ideas, hand independence and various other elements. In this first part of the advanced solo piano series I'm going to combine all the previous steps from the Intermediate series but take it one step further and explain exactly how we begin to progress our solo piano so we sound like true professionals. Let's review the steps in the Intermediate series.

The first thing we covered was Left Hand solo piano components.

- 1.* Just bass notes
- 2.* Bass note then shells -
- 3.* Bass note then full chord
- 4.* Root and 7th -
- 5.* Root and 3rd
- 6.* Root and 3rd (tenth)
- 7.* Root + 7th to Root + 3rd Combination
- 8.* Root + 7th to Root + 3rd (tenth) Combination

The second step we covered was our RH harmonizing below the melody with shells in various ways.

- a. **One Chord Change** - For example if there is one chord change for that measure, and the melody starts on beat 1, you will harmonize that melody note with the shells to that note chord change.



- b. **Two Chord Changes** – Now if there are two chords for the measure, you will harmonize the melody note beneath the first chord change and harmonize the other melody note beneath the second chord change. (see example)



The third step was combining both hands together. This was an extremely important step as it begins to actually sound like the solo piano style. (See Lesson 19 for review)

The fourth step was adding in root and 5th as fillers in the RH beneath the melody. (See Lesson 20 for review)

So we've built a nice foundation from which to improve upon. A lot of the advancement from here on has to do with how to establish and maintain a tempo, adding extensions and colors below the melody, comping for yourself during the melody, and supporting yourself during your solo and filling in the space during the melody. We need to start paying attention to some very specific details that have a huge impact on whether or not your solo performance actually sounds good.

You want to make sure you've gotten very comfortable with this overview and can do exactly what I've done in this video. Meaning go through real book tunes and play them through at a comfortable tempo while arranging them on the spot with the previous steps we've talked about from the Intermediate course.