

1. *Advanced Solo Piano Series Part 4 - Varying Textures for Melody & Improv*

a. *Original RH Melody LH Components* - The majority of the time I will start off with this texture. I would consider this your go to and one you will hear most often on albums. The mistake I see most beginners make is they only play the melody in the RH while the LH plays its own components. There is nothing wrong with this approach but it is very simple. Remember, you have a lot of fingers left on your right hand after playing the single melody line. These fingers should be utilized underneath the melody to create a full and interactive sound that integrates with the LH components.

b. *Just LH Bass RH Melody or Improv* - This is a simple yet effective texture to really spread out your texture on the piano. When your LH is making use of the lowest end on the piano while your RH is improvising or playing the melody in the high end, it makes for a great combination of sound.

c. *Sustained Chords, Pedal No Time* - This is a trickier texture to use because it deals with how you feel the time. Most of the time at a tempo of 120 bpm you will be feeling each and every quarter note within yourself or your playing. You could also conceptualize this tempo in half though by feeling the half notes at 60 bpm. So you no longer feel 4 beats, you only feel 2. This slight change in how the tempo is felt will drastically change how you phrase the comping you play for the melody and your solo. When you feel a time in half or even quartered, meaning you only feel one beat per

measure you create the illusion that time has slowed down even though it hasn't. This is the perfect spot to sustain your chords out or use the pedal. This will create more of an airy atmosphere to the tune before you start to swing. Once you have worked on this texture a little you can begin to go in and out of the airy open atmosphere with the hard quarter note swing feeling.

*d. More Space With Stabs RH Swinging* - This is a great texture for when things start to heat up. In this variation your RH is mainly controlling the tempo through the melody or improv while the LH provides just enough bass and chordal support through stabs. You don't want your LH to be overbearing but think of it as more of a builder that can help your RH stand out.

*e. The Slow Stride Swing with Space* - I absolutely love this texture for the amount of space that is left in the stride. Normally when you think about stride you think of a consistent medium to fast swing pace. This texture is more for the slow, bluesy or ballad type of style. It can really be used with any slow tune you want though. The hardest part about this texture is you have to be comfortable with the amount of space you are leaving. If you're doing it right it'll feel like there are large gaps that should be filled but do NOT fill these gaps. These gaps are the magic that bring out this texture. Because of the slow tempos this is used in you can get very creative with the combination of your LH and RH during the melody and while you are improvising.