

Left Hand Accompaniment Patterns

Simple Block

Qtr. note block

4-beat

3-beat (waltz)

Alberti Bass

Broken Triplets - play all 3 chord notes on each beat

Boogie Bass notice 1 octave lower

Broken Qtrs.

Broken Eighths

Simple Pop

Virtuoso Bass

Playing from a fake book or "lead sheet" gives you great flexibility in how you play a song. The simplest way to bring a melody to life is to turn the chords into a good accompaniment pattern.

The best way to learn each of the left hands is to choose a LH pattern and then play 20 different fake songs with that LH pattern. Then choose another LH pattern and play 20 songs with it.

If you play the song more than one time thru, use a different left hand on each chorus. See the example for several different LH patterns with Michael Row the Boat. You can listen to what many different LH patterns sound like by going to the Recordings tab and choosing Demo Impro and then LH Demos.

Examples of LH Accompaniment Patterns with Michael

Simple Block Chords

Musical notation for Simple Block Chords. The right hand (RH) plays a melody consisting of quarter notes and eighth notes. The left hand (LH) plays block chords, which are groups of notes played simultaneously, often in a rhythmic pattern.

Four-Beat

Musical notation for Four-Beat. The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays a rhythmic pattern of four beats, often using chords or single notes.

Broken Quarter Notes

Musical notation for Broken Quarter Notes. The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays broken quarter notes, which are quarter notes played in a sequence, often with a rhythmic pattern.

Alberti 8th Notes

Musical notation for Alberti 8th Notes. The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays Alberti 8th notes, which are eighth notes played in a specific rhythmic pattern.

Musical notation for Alberti 8th Notes (continued). The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays Alberti 8th notes, which are eighth notes played in a specific rhythmic pattern.

Broken 8th note Triplets

Musical notation for Broken 8th note Triplets. The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays broken 8th note triplets, which are eighth notes played in a sequence, often with a rhythmic pattern.

Musical notation for Broken 8th note Triplets (continued). The right hand (RH) plays a melody. The left hand (LH) plays broken 8th note triplets, which are eighth notes played in a sequence, often with a rhythmic pattern.