



## First - Lead Sheet...

**THE ROSE**

The image shows a musical score for the song 'The Rose'. It consists of three staves. The top staff is the melody, starting with a treble clef and a common time signature. The second staff shows chords: C, C, G, F, G, C 1., C 2., Emi, Ami, F, G. The third staff shows chords: C, G, F, G, C. The melody is written in a simple, accessible style with many eighth and quarter notes.

### Right Hand:

#### Melody

- As Written
- 8va
- 16va
- In Octaves

#### Embellishments

- Neighboring Tone (upper, lower)
- Grace Notes (explain the various types)

#### Other Considerations

- Stylize Melody; Thinking like a singer, modifying the note values but not the measures.
- Rubato... (analogy; notes on a rubber band)

### Left Hand:

#### Chords

- Block
- Broken

#### Alberti Bass (Repeated Chordal Pattern)

- 531
- 53135
- 53131313
- 5131
- Etc.

I also might give them the Lead Sheet (Fake Sheet) a week before without any instruction, just to see what they might come up with. Then I would present the ideas for the Right Hand, as well as the Left Hand. Plus have them try the Lead Sheet one more week, using some of these new ideas.

In future lessons, and most likely with new Lead Sheets, I would start to include one or two new concepts. The new lead sheets would also become progressively harder, a few more chords, melody difficulties, and style changes (ballads, pop, jazz, latin, rock, etc.)

Some of those ideas would include:

- Harmonization (parallel, traditional vertical harmonization)
- Fills (broken chords, inversions, scales)
- Easy counterpoint (8va-Maj7-6th)
- Pivot Patterns
- Voicings

When ever you feel it is appropriate, talk to the students about the demographics

Range considerations;

- Left hand chords (how low should you go with closed position chords, how high)
- Tenths (how low, how high)
- Right hand melody
- Fills (where to place them)

More Ideas for the Left Hand would eventual include:

- Tenths
- Tenth Variations (inverted, added extensions)
- Tenths with Chords
- Tenths with Added Root Tones
- Tenths with Added Passing Tones
- Tenth Routines (Stride Piano)
- Modified Tenth Patterns (BND, Pivots)

A Few More Advanced Ideas...

- Various Patterns
- Arpeggios
- 10<sup>th</sup> with Chords - Arpeggiated
- Scale Patterns
- Voicings
- Counterpoint (RH, and LH)
- Rhythm (Syncopation, Swung Eighths, Ghosting)
- Styles (Jazz, Latin, Pop, Classical, Soft Rock, Bossa Nova, Rumba, Samba...)

Depending on the age of the student, and even their interest, I might stay with the simple lead sheets for quite some time. All of these skills will also help them in composing their own music.