

Soul-Centered Songwriting Tips

Instrumental Songwriting Strategies for Beginner Piano

❖ Start Simple

- Begin with a simple chord progression, such as two alternating chords.
- Play the same chord in both hands, focusing only on chord tones at first.
- Build patterns step by step, assigning distinct roles to each hand.
- Experiment with contrasting rhythms: a steady, slower bass and a livelier melody in the right hand.

❖ Create Ostinatos

- Develop a repetitive ostinato pattern in the left hand.
- Add a complementary, more intricate ostinato in the right hand.

❖ Anchor Points in Melody

- Highlight chord tones (1, 3, 5) on accented beats to connect the melody to the harmony.
- Use transitional notes to add smoothness and movement between chord tones.

❖ Add Rhythmic Complexity

- Introduce syncopation by delaying or anticipating notes.
- Experiment with rhythm changes, such as doubling or shortening note values.
- Incorporate variations gradually to keep patterns manageable.

❖ Create Tension and Release

- Play non-chord tones on strong beats to introduce tension.
- Resolve tension by returning to chord tones for a satisfying release.

❖ Step-by-Step Complexity

- Gradually increase the complexity of rhythms, melodies, or harmonies.
- If it becomes too challenging, simplify until it feels natural and manageable.

❖ Leverage Muscle Memory

- Practice slowly and repeatedly until patterns feel automatic.
- Once mastered, shift focus to exploring variations and embellishments.

❖ Explore Variations

- Adjust rhythms between hands for contrast.
- Add trills, alternate rhythms, or subtle changes to patterns for variety.
- Introduce small variations during repetitions to keep the music dynamic and engaging.