Teaching Harmonization

for Music Evaluation Day

Why do we believe this skill is important?

☐ It teaches the student to concretely apply the knowledge of keys, scales, and chords to their playing through harmonizing a melody.

☐ It teaches the student to use chord patterns in a creative way.

☐ It teaches the student world folk songs and common melodies from American history.

How does the student demonstrate this skill at MED?

☐ The student will play one melody with an accompaniment they have created and practiced before MED.

What materials are furnished to help the student prepare their harmonization?

☐ The PDF for each level includes:

    ☐ Three melodies between 8 and 24 measures long

    ☐ A sheet of suggested left hand accompaniment patterns

    ☐ Teaching ideas and tips

☐ The three melodies will be subject to change every 2 years.

How should the teacher prepare the student for this skill test?

☐ Assist the student in finding a working fingering for each melody.

☐ Instruct the student how to harmonize each melody with pre-determined chords on the attached lead sheet.

☐ Determine the best chord inversions or intervals for the student's ease of playing.

☐ Show the student how to use chord patterns to make the accompaniment more interesting to play and hear.

☐ The accompaniment patterns included in the MED harmonization materials are just suggestions. Please feel free to use them or any appropriate accompaniment patterns of your own devising.

☐ Suggested resources for accompaniment patterns include these titles.

> ☐ *100 Left Hand Patterns Every Piano Player Should Know* (Jerald Simon)
>
> ☐ *Creative Chords Keyboard Improvisation Method* (Bradley Sowash)--currently available in 2 levels

What is the format of the melodies included in each level?

☐ Each melody is notated as a lead sheet, with no written left hand part.

☐ Letter chord symbols are written above the melody, as in popular sheet music.

☐ Roman numeral chord symbols are written below the melody to help teach the function of each chord in the key.