

## K. COMPLEMENTING THE MELODY

An accompaniment should complement, not compete with, the melody. When there are long notes or rests in the melody, it is often a good idea to put short notes in the accompaniment, so it does not sag. Similarly, when there are short notes in the melody, the accompaniment can be less busy.

1. Here are the first four bars of two melodies. Continue the piano arrangements. Notice that in both the accompaniment picks up the rhythm of part of the melody.

(a) *Relaxed* C

Musical score for exercise (a) in C major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four bars: a whole note C, a half note D-E-F-G, a quarter note A-B, and a quarter note C. The piano accompaniment starts with a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: B7, E+, E7, and A7.

(b) *Lively*

Musical score for exercise (b) in E-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four bars: a half note E-flat, a quarter note F-G, a quarter note A-B, and a quarter note C. The piano accompaniment features a walking bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: E-flat, C7, Fm, B-flat+, E-flat, G+, A-flat, and A-flatm. The dynamic marking *mp* is present.

2. An accompaniment should be interesting without overpowering the tune. When a chord lasts for a few beats, the performer can vary the bass notes of the chord. In the example below, the F chord is specified for three beats in the second full bar, but the bass note is changed to A, with a passing note creating a "walking" bass line. Two- and three-note slurs appear in the middle of the texture, adding a countermelody that contrasts in both rhythm and shape with the main melody. Finish the arrangement.

*Slow, with feeling* F7

Musical score for exercise 2 in F major, 4/4 time. The melody consists of four bars: a half note F, a quarter note G-A, a quarter note B-C, and a quarter note D. The piano accompaniment features a walking bass line in the left hand and chords in the right hand. Chord changes are indicated above the staff: F7, B-flat, B-flatm, F, Bdim7, C, Cdim7, C7, Cm/F, F7, B-flat, Cm7, F7. The score includes slurs and a fermata over the final chord.