

Fiddle - Inventing Project

Making a piano accompaniment from chord symbols

Try to improvise a piano accompaniment for Niel Gow's *Lament for the death of his second wife* using the chord symbols given in the score in the PARTS section.

Many traditional piano players base their accompaniments on broken chords or arpeggios.

It might help you to write out the triads of the chords first i.e.

| | | |
|----|----|---|
| D | Bm | G |
| F# | D | B |
| A | F# | D |

The first bar might go something like this:

Piano

The musical notation shows a piano accompaniment in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The first bar consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) plays a broken chord pattern: a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note B4, an eighth note C5, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note D5, and an eighth note E5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line: a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note D3, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note F#3, and a quarter rest.

or perhaps like this:

Piano

The musical notation shows a piano accompaniment in D major (two sharps) and 6/8 time. The first bar consists of two staves. The right hand (treble clef) plays a broken chord pattern: a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note B4, an eighth note C5, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note D5, and an eighth note E5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a bass line: a quarter rest, followed by a dotted quarter note D3, an eighth note E3, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note F#3, an eighth note G3, a quarter rest, a dotted quarter note A3, an eighth note B3, and a quarter rest.

Once you've got the feel of the pattern try to continue improvising the rest of the bars in the same way.