

Jazz/Rock Course

A Complete Approach to Playing on both Acoustic and Electronic Keyboards

Bert Konowitz

Jazz and rock music are an important part of today's musical scene, yet they play only a small part in most piano students' formal training. With technology taking on a more important role in many music studios, the need for a Jazz/Rock Course that offers the option of combining the acoustic piano and the electronic keyboard is evident. Look at the variety of teaching problems that can be solved by this Course: improved rhythmic ability, steadier tempo, heightened listening acuity (due to 2nd parts and electronic rhythm backgrounds), more student/teacher interaction, increased sensitivity to the stylistic demands of the music, and finally, the special word when it comes to creativity—*improvisation*. For the first time, improvisation is introduced and structured in such a way that it makes it possible for *everyone* to succeed.

This book is uniquely written to be played on either a traditional acoustic piano or an electronic keyboard. At the bottom of each page, suggestions are offered for ways that acoustic and electronic instruments may be used together: **Acoustic Jamming** suggestions offer a supportive left-hand accompaniment that may be added by a teacher, a parent who plays piano, or a more experienced student. **Electronic Jamming** suggestions offer specific *sounds* and *rhythm backgrounds* that may be used when playing on an electronic keyboard. Finally, the electronic *rhythm backgrounds* may also be added as an accompaniment when performing on an acoustic piano.

While Alfred's Jazz/Rock Course is designed for individual instruction, the opportunities for varied performance experiences are expanded when used in group or class lessons. Jazz/Rock Level 1 is correlated page-by-page with Alfred's Basic Piano Library, Lesson Book 1B, beginning on page 23. When used this way, the Jazz/Rock Course creates a high degree of student enthusiasm by introducing a "new" sound into the piano lesson. This new sound, while being "different" when compared to what the student has been playing, is the popular and familiar sound of jazz and rock. For some students, this is just what they have been waiting for.

Also available is an optional stereo cassette tape that contains all the pieces in this book. The student will be able to hear each piece exactly as it should be played, with or without an instrumental accompaniment. You can play along with the keyboard parts and/or with the instrumental accompaniments. The *right* channel gives prominence to the keyboard part the student will be playing; the *left* channel gives prominence to an instrumental accompaniment designed to be played along with the keyboard part; by *centering* the channels, you can hear both the keyboard and the instrumental accompaniment together, at equal volume.

Dedicated to Jessica, Rachel, Zachary and Sarah

A General MIDI disk  is available (5726), which includes a full piano recording and background accompaniment.

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The Blues

Use after page 24.

Jazz/Rock music uses a special type of song to tell a story or express feelings.
It is called the **BLUES**.

ALONE AND TOGETHER BLUES

Slowly

1

mf 1. Some - times it's such fun to play when I'm all a - lone, Some -
2. fun to ___ be with friends some - of the time. It's

1
5

5

times it's such fun to play when I'm all of a - lone, And
fun to ___ be with friends some - of the time. There're

9

oth - er times I will talk on the tel - e - phone. It's
oth - er times when ___ be - ing a - lone is fine. The

13

name of this song is "A - lone and To - geth - er Blues." Oh yeah!

ACOUSTIC JAMMING: Play the left hand an octave lower.

ELECTRONIC JAMMING:

REGISTER: Jazz Organ/Cornet **RHYTHM:** Rock