

Playing Piano Accompaniments on the Organ

Harold Stuart, CAGO

Differences Between the Organ and the Piano

1. The organ is a sustained tone instrument. Notes play for as long as you hold them. The piano is a percussion instrument. Notes start to decay as soon as you hit the key.
2. The piano has a damper pedal which slows the rate of decay and allows other strings to vibrate sympathetically when a key is pressed.
3. Because of decay, piano accompaniments often use broken chords. This reinforces the chord and keeps strings vibrating throughout the length of the chord. This is unnecessary on the organ as the instrument plays continuously.

Things to Think About When Playing a Piano Accompaniment

1. Do not play the organ like a piano.
2. Play the real bass line. A held bass is just fine most of the time.
3. When in doubt, the chord symbols are your best friend.
4. Keep things simple. Do you really need that broken chord?
5. Sometime broken chords are appropriate. It's called Star Bright, not Star Mush.
6. The melody and the bass are the most important parts of harmony. The rest is filler and can be altered if needed.
7. Make sure the melody stands out.
8. Rhythm and phrasing are very important.
9. If you need to play broken chords, hold the bass note of the chord in the pedal throughout the length of the chord and then play the other notes of the chord. Consider playing the accompaniment on a different manual.
10. When all else fails, play the melody.

Think a Sacred Song

Allen:

Sw: Flute 8', String 8, Flute 4'

Gt: Principal 8', 4'

Ped: Principal 16', 8'

Gt.

Rodgers or Johannus:

Sw: Principal 8', Flute 4'

Gt: Principal 8', 4'

Ped: Principal 16', 8'

Marlene Summers Merkling, arr. by Harold Stuart

1. Think a sa-cred song; the words will give you pow'r. Think the mel-o-dy, and
 2. Think a sa-cred song when scared or feel-ing bad. Hum the qui-et tune when-
 Sw.

in that ver-y hour Your heart and mind will o-pen to let the Spir-it
 ev-er you are sad. Your heart and mind will o-pen to let the Spir-it

in, And you will feel His com-fort a-gain.
 in, And you will feel His com-fort a-gain.

Holy Places

Arranged for Organ

Gt: Principal 8', 4'
Ped: Principal 16', 8'

Sherrie Manwill Boren
Organ Arrangement by Harold Stuart

♩ = 78

The tem - ple is a ho - ly place Where heav - en touch - es earth - A
A home can be a ho - ly place To learn of God a - bove - A
My heart can be a ho - ly place Where all a - round is dim - A

rev - 'rent place, a hal - lowed space, Where we do the Sav - ior's work. I'll
prayer - ful place to seek His face, Where we grow in faith and love.
peace - ful place of hope and grace, Where the Spir - it shines with - in.

stand in ho - ly plac - es With a heart that's firm and true, Un - til

Christ re - turns and makes all the world Ho - ly, clean, and new.

When the Savior Comes Again

Gt: Principal 8', 4'
Ped: Principal 16', 8'

♩ = 72

When the Sav - ior comes a - gain,
When that glo - rious day is here,

He will cleanse the earth, and then In glo - ry He will reign as King of
there will be no need to fear; For Sa - tan will be found, and Christ will

kings a - mong all men. Hate will cease and war will end;
reign a thou - sand years. Death and pain will be no more;

peace will dwell through - out the land; The wolf shall feed to - geth - er with the
hid - den knowl - edge shall come forth And ev - 'ry tounge con - fess that Christ is

lamb.
Lord!

Lift up your voice! Re-joice! And pre - pare for that day!

Learn of the Lord and keep fol - low-ing His way. No one knows the day and hour when

He will come a-gain, But He'll re-turn as scrip-tures say; it will be a joy-ful day When our be-love-ed Sav-ior comes a-

gain.

1. 2.

“When the Savior Comes Again” by Lane Johnson

Copyright © 2019 IRI. Arrangement Copyright © 2025 Harold Stuart. All rights reserved. Permission to copy is granted for non-commercial use.