“Modernizing the Classic Piano Studio Through Contemporary Literature, Improvisation, Composition, and Technology”

Instructor:
Sean Turner
Keyboard Department Head
McNally Smith College of Music
651-361-3595
sean.turner@mcnallysmith.edu

Day 1
Lead Sheets:
Review of diatonic harmony
Diatonic melody harmonization using simple composition
Chord Voicing Strategies
Filler Material to create momentum and imply groove

Triadic Based Lead Sheet

1. Diatonic Lead Sheets
2. “I’ll Be There”
   2a. How to create smooth chord transitions for accompaniment
3. Rhythmic Concepts (subdivision etc.)
4. Chordal Patterns
5. Left hand motions

Concepts applied to other triadic based lead sheets

Seventh Chord Based Lead Sheet
1. Voicing Formulas
2. Application to songs

Current Pop/Rock Song
1. Listen/Analysis/Break down elements/re-create arrangement

Day 2
Improvisation:
1. Major Scale/Modes
2. Diatonic Harmony  
   a. Triads/Seventh Chords  
3. "White Note Song": Major Scale Improv.  
4. Pentatonics applied to above  
6. Rhythmic Sentences  
7. I-IV-V Improvisation: Triad chord tones, add one note, scale, rhythms, combinations  
8. Neighbor tone concepts  
9. Guide tone lines  

Application  
Use previous days songs to apply vocabulary  
1. Triadic Patterns  
2. Blues Scale  
3. Chord Tone Improv.  
4. Patterns From Scales  

The Blues  
1. Form  
2. Scale  
3. Developing one note/two note/etc. improv. Ideas  
4. Basic L.H. accompaniment  
5. Duet playing between teacher and student  

Day 3  
Composition  
1. Writing Melodies (concepts)  
   1a. How to take a four bar phrase and extend the idea using inversion, sequencing, retrograde, etc.  
2. Write melody based on C Major  
3. Harmonize with diatonic triads (rt., 3rd,5th)  
4. How to voice the chords with melody as top note  
5. Add color to the right hand  
6. Bass motion  
7. Re-harmonize song from Day 1 (Triadic Lead Sheet)  
8. Harmonize with seventh chords  

Day 4  
Technology  
1. Intro to Garage Band/Band in a box/Sibelius/Transcribe  
2. Building play-a-longs  
3. Grooves  
4. Elements of an arrangement (drums/bass/chordal/melody)