



THE
KEYS
COACH

FREE LESSON BOOK



PLAY MELODY &
CHORDS TOGETHER
(IN YOUR RIGHHAND)

THEKEYSCOACH.COM



This lesson book goes alongside the full-length tutorial video on
The Keys Coach YouTube channel.



Adam Saunders
Founder
The Keys Coach

Introduction

Hi there! 🎶

Thanks so much for downloading this Lesson Book!

One of the questions I often get from piano players is,
"How do you play the melody and chords together with your
right hand?"

If your left hand is handling the bass line, how do you create
rich, full-sounding arrangements where your right hand can
play both the tune and the harmony simultaneously?

In this Lesson Book, along with the tutorial on YouTube, I'm
going to break down a tried and tested method that will
transform your right-hand playing.

In addition to learning a special trick called
'tune-chord-tune', we'll also explore some cool chord
techniques that you can apply to your own arrangements.

We'll work through this method using the song '**Amazing
Grace**'—a classic tune you might already know by ear.

If not, be sure to check out Aretha Franklin's incredible
[version!](#)

Let's dive in!

🎧 Backing Tracks

To download the backing tracks used
in the video ➡ [click here](#)

Key: F Major

Timestamps
1:23 - The Key & Melody

We're going to look at this in the key of F major. Here is the **F major scale**:

Amazing Grace has a **pentatonic melody** which means that all of the notes come from the pentatonic scale - a five note scale (1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 of the key).

Here is the **F major pentatonic scale**:

The Melody

The first step is to play the melody using just your little finger. This might feel unusual since we're usually encouraged to use all our fingers for melodies. However, this technique will be helpful later when the rest of your hand is playing chords!

Harmonic Framework

Timestamps
3:01 - Harmonic Framework

The next step is to add chords, using the Primary Triads in the key of F major (chords I, IV and V) - F, Bb and C.

These triads are called "primary" because together they cover all seven notes of the F major scale. This means that for any note in a melody that's part of the F major scale, one of these triads will fit perfectly to harmonise it.

The **chord symbols** are written above the melody.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G clef and 3/4 time. The top staff starts with a rest followed by a single note 'F'. The second staff starts with a single note 'C'. The third staff starts with a single note 'F'. The bottom staff starts with a single note 'C'. Above each staff, there are chord symbols: F, Bb, F; C; F, Bb, F; and C, Bb, F respectively. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some sustained notes indicated by dots. Measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 are placed above the first, second, third, and fourth measures respectively.

In the video, Adam refers to chords using numbers (e.g., I, IV, V), while here we are using chord symbols.

Getting familiar with numbers is useful because it helps you understand each chord's role in the home key. This skill will make transposing songs easier and improve your ability to figure out chords by ear.



Enjoy this Video? ⭐

If you enjoyed this video, you might like this video which breaks down the iconic piano intro to '**Easy**' by **Lionel Richie!**

Check it out [here](#).

Tune-Chord-Tune

Timestamps

7:29 - Tune-Chord-Tune

8:51 - Only Play The Chords

To use the Tune-Chord-Tune method with your right hand, you first need to get the chords solid. Start by just playing the chords, making sure the melody note is at the top, usually played with your little finger.

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows three chords: F major (root position), B♭ major (root position), and F major (root position). The melody note is placed at the top of each chord, indicated by a small orange asterisk above the staff.

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows a single chord, C major (root position), with a melodic line passing through it. A brace groups the four voices of the chord.

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows three chords: F major (root position), B♭ major (root position), and F major (root position). The melody note is placed at the top of each chord.

A musical staff in G clef and common time. It shows three chords: F major (root position), F major (F/C position), and F major (root position). The melody note is placed at the top of each chord.

* On a chord chart, if a bar doesn't have a chord written, you carry over the chord from the previous bar.

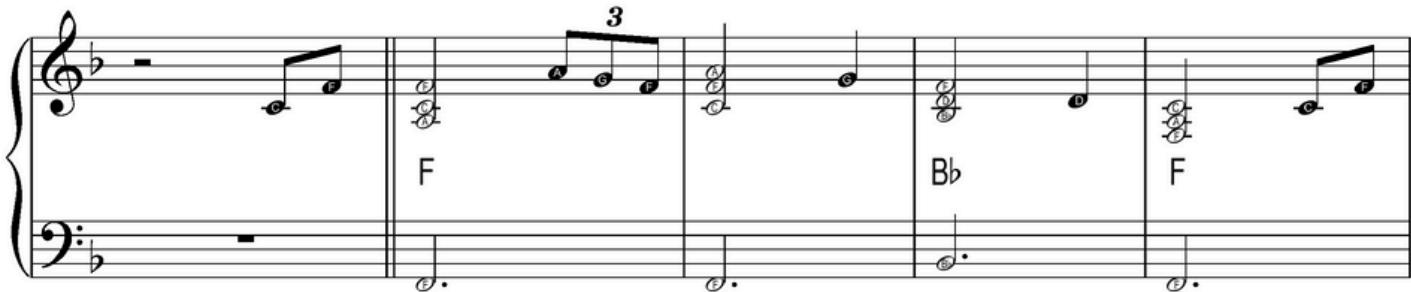
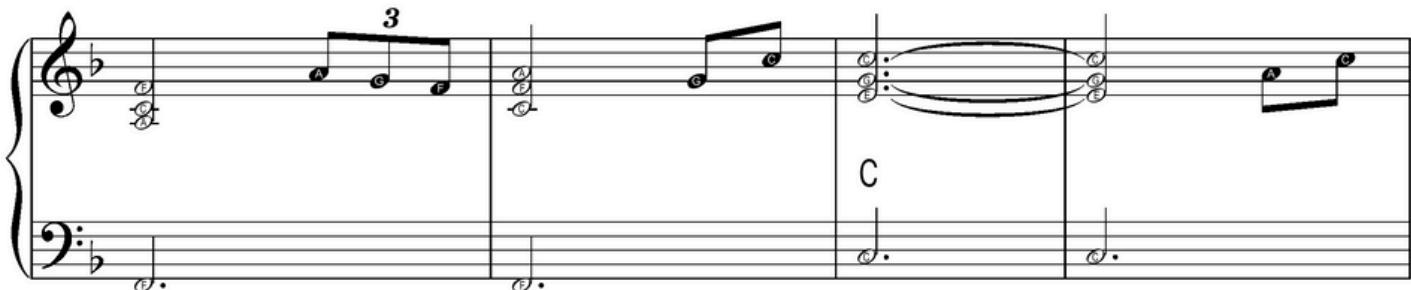
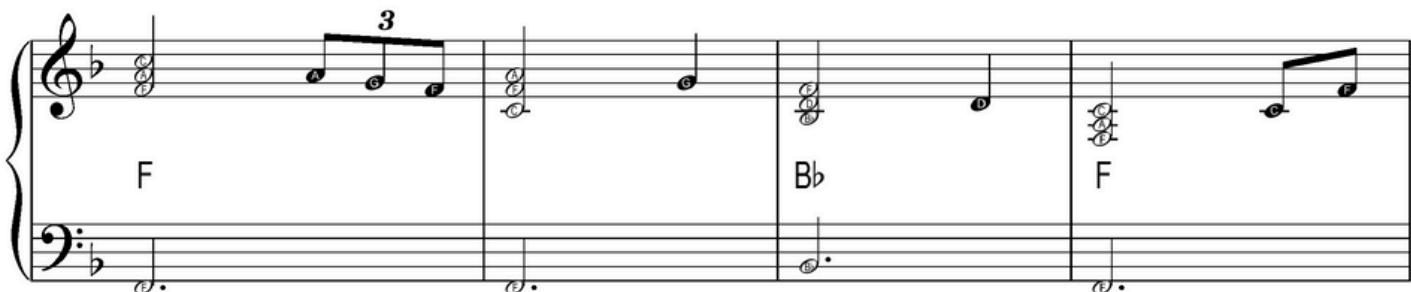
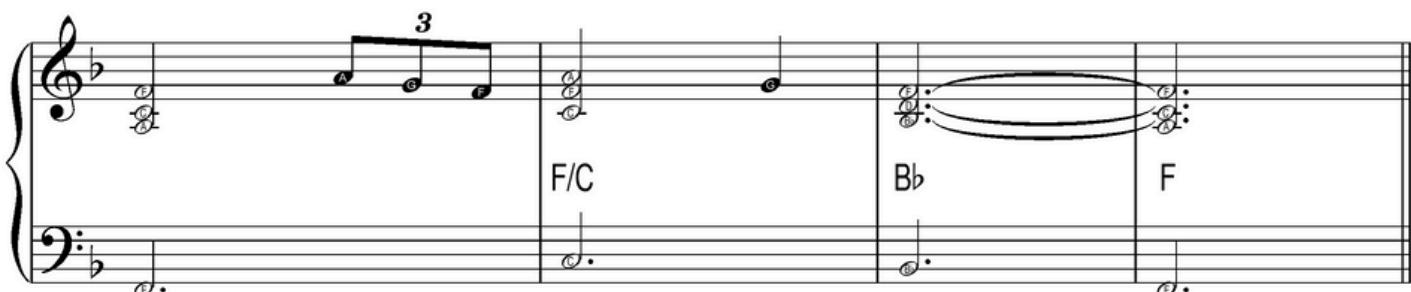
Backing Tracks

Try playing this along with **Backing Track 1** ➔ [click here to download](#)

Now, try combining the melody with the chords. Start by playing the right hand part on its own, and once you're comfortable, add the left hand.

 **Timestamps**
11:26 - Put It Together
12:44 - Playthrough

While we initially played the melody only with the little finger, this isn't always practical when playing the chords as well. Sometimes, you'll need to use your fourth finger, and your thumb, or second finger for bits of the tune that happen lower down. Watch the tutorial video closely to see how Adam does this.

Backing Tracks

Try playing this along with **Backing Track 1** ➔ [click here to download](#)

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Let's Get Creative!

In this section of the video, Adam breaks down several techniques you can use to make your playing more creative and less 'static'.

⌚ Timestamps

- 13:18 - Let's Get Creative
- 13:49 - Use Your Thumb
- 15:04 - The McCartney Walkdown
- 16:44 - Why Are We Doing This?
- 18:18 - A Couple More Tricks!
- 21:03 - How To Add Tension

The first technique is to use your thumb to add rhythmic movement between chord changes. Try playing the arrangement again, using your thumb as a 'springboard' for each transition.

The second technique is the 'McCartney Walkdown', which we can use in the final few bars of 'Amazing Grace'. In the key of F major this walkdown sounds like this:

Want To Go Deeper...? ✨

Throughout this tutorial we are always using good '**voice leading**'.

This term refers to the **smooth movement of chords** from one to another, using **inversions** to avoid large jumps.

→ [Want To Master Chord Inversions? Check out this Extended PDF Lesson Book 🚀](#)

Another technique is to add another walkdown towards the end of the arrangement:

The musical notation consists of two staves. The top staff is in F major (G clef) and the bottom staff is in F major (C clef). The top staff shows chords: F (F, A, C), F/Eb (F, E, C), Bb/D (Bb, D, F), and F/C (F, C, E). The bottom staff shows chords: Dm⁷ (D, F, A, C), F/C (F, C, E), Bb (Bb, D, F), F/A (F, A, C), Gm⁷ (G, Bb, D, F), and F (F, A, C). An orange arrow labeled "Walkdown" points from the first chord of the top staff to the bass line of the bottom staff.

We are also using Dm⁷ here to vary the harmony here and make the bass line more interesting.

Notice that the right-hand stays pretty much the same all through the section; it's only the bass line that changes.

The last technique is to play the whole first time through the tune over a tonic pedal. That means you keep holding down the 1 of the key (F) while your right hand as usual. This adds tension and sets things up for the second time through, where there's a lot more happening!



Enjoy this Video? 🌟

If you enjoyed this video, you might like this video which breaks down the iconic piano intro to '**The Way It Is**' by **Bruce Hornsby**

→ Check it out here 🎥

Final Playthrough

🕒 **Timestamps**

22:57 - Final Playthrough

Now try putting everything we've covered together!

Really try and lock-in with the bass and drums on the track, and don't be afraid to make mistakes!

Backing Tracks

Try playing this along with **Backing Track 2** ➔ [click here to download](#)

What's written here covers the basics of what Adam is playing, but there are some extra embellishments involved, including the thumb technique we discussed earlier. These added touches aren't written here as they tend to happen more naturally. Try to incorporate them yourself or copy what Adam does in the video.

Continued on next page →

The image displays six staves of musical notation, each consisting of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The notation is in common time (indicated by a '3' above the first measure). The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

Staff 1:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes G, F, G. Bass staff has note F.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes G, F, G. Bass staff has note B♭.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has note G. Bass staff has note F.

Staff 2:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes G, F, G. Bass staff has note F.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes G, E, G. Bass staff has note C.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has notes G, E, G. Bass staff has note C.

Staff 3:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes G, F, G. Bass staff has note F.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes F, E♭, F. Bass staff has note F/E♭.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has notes F, D, F. Bass staff has note B♭/D.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has note F. Bass staff has note F/C.

Staff 4:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes F, E, F. Bass staff has note Dm⁷.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes F, C, F. Bass staff has note F/C.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has notes F, D, F. Bass staff has note B♭.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has notes F, A, F. Bass staff has note F/A.
- Measure 5: Treble staff has notes F, G, F. Bass staff has note Gm⁷.
- Measure 6: Treble staff has note F. Bass staff has note F.

Staff 5:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes F, E, F. Bass staff has note Dm⁷.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes F, G, F. Bass staff has note F/C.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has notes F, D, F. Bass staff has note B♭.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has notes F, A, F. Bass staff has note F/A.
- Measure 5: Treble staff has notes F, G, F. Bass staff has note Gm⁷.
- Measure 6: Treble staff has note F. Bass staff has note F.

Staff 6:

- Measure 1: Treble staff has notes F, E, F. Bass staff has note Dm⁷.
- Measure 2: Treble staff has notes F, C, F. Bass staff has note F/C.
- Measure 3: Treble staff has notes F, D, F. Bass staff has note B♭.
- Measure 4: Treble staff has notes F, A, F. Bass staff has note F/A.
- Measure 5: Treble staff has notes F, G, F. Bass staff has note Gm⁷.
- Measure 6: Treble staff has note F. Bass staff has note F.



Adam Saunders
Founder
The Keys Coach

To take this further, try applying the same method to other songs. Pentatonic melodies are a good starting point, but this approach can be used with many different tunes.

My biggest advice to anyone wanting to really get this into their playing, would be to practice inversions as much as possible. This will really help with this, particularly if you often find yourself opting for root position triads in your right hand. There is an extended Lesson Book which you can purchase by ➔ [clicking here, to really help you with this.](#)

I might have gotten a bit carried away while filming this lesson... 😅 but I hope you found it useful! There's a lot of content here—probably enough for four or five videos.

I'll be diving deeper into these concepts over the coming months, so keep an eye on the YouTube channel for some exciting updates coming soon!

If you enjoyed this lesson, drop the team an email! We love to hear from people who are finding the lessons useful - adam@thekeyescoach.com

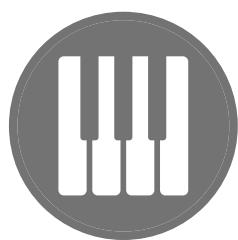
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