



LESSON 3-2 : Playing the Bass

Pop Piano: Playing Harmony with Triads

Bass

- Lowest pitched harmony line in a song
- Provides a foundation for the rest of the song to be built on
- The root of the chord, is often also the bass note

Playing the Bass

- Bass notes are usually played on the 1st beat of every bar, and whenever the chord changes
- As the root of the chord is also the letter displayed in the chord symbol, the bass note is simply the chord symbol
- Chord symbols usually appear at the start of the bar
- If there are no chord symbols for a particular bar, we assume a chord symbol on the 1st beat of that bar which follows the chord symbol from the previous bar
- The bass line is usually played 1 to 2 octaves below the melody line
- Practice playing the bass on 'My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean'

My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean

C F C C Am Dm
 1 5 1 2 1 1 5

9 G C F C Dm G C
 1 5 1 2 1 1

18 F G C
 1 3

25 F G C
 1 4