

# MUSIC AND YOU

## IT DON'T MEAN A THING

COMPOSER, DUKE ELLINGTON

AN ARRANGEMENT FOR BEGINNING STUDENTS





## 1 of 3 Lessons

This is a series of 3 piano lessons.

### **1. Beginning/Intermediate**

- Lead sheet with chords
- Practice Sheet for learning Chords
- Easy Arrangement

### **2. Intermediate Arrangement**

- Playing a bass line
- Adding a Blues Lick
- Intermediate Arrangement

### **3. Jazz Arrangement**

- Understanding the minor chords Adding
- Open Harmony
- New Left Hand Style



## **Beginning Students Do Not have to play simple children's songs.**

**Yes, you can play fun and accomplished piano.**

**This is why I am writing arrangements that you will love to play, and feel successful learning piano.**

I have written an arrangement specifically for beginning students starting on page 3.

If this is above your level of playing I have guided you with practice sheets describing how you can learn this song. Most students will learn a song by the notes only and not analyze the song first. By analyzing the song first you will see that it can be learned and memorize quite easily.

For example, in measures 6, 7 & 8, the left hand moves up in  $\frac{1}{2}$  steps, starting with C to C# then D. If you only think of the notes written on the music, you will learn it by C, C#, D, but if you analyze the music, you will also add to your learning by knowing that this passage starts on C, moves up to the next black note, and up to the next white note using  $\frac{1}{2}$  steps.

When memorizing we have a tendency to memorize music by notes, then end up playing the song by rote not by its' structure. If your mind wanders you will loose your place and forget where you are. By analyzing a song, you will memorize the progressions with the notes, and you will know exactly where you are in the song, and will be conscious of the music when playing.



# Steps in learning a song.

1. Always memorize your music
2. Analyze the left hand
3. Memorize the left hand
4. Analyze the right hand (how to analyze the right hand is in the Intermediate Lessons)
5. Memorize the right hand
6. Memorize hands together



# IT DON'T MEAN A THING

## Left Hand Practice Sheet

For Beginning level 8 or Intermediate level 4

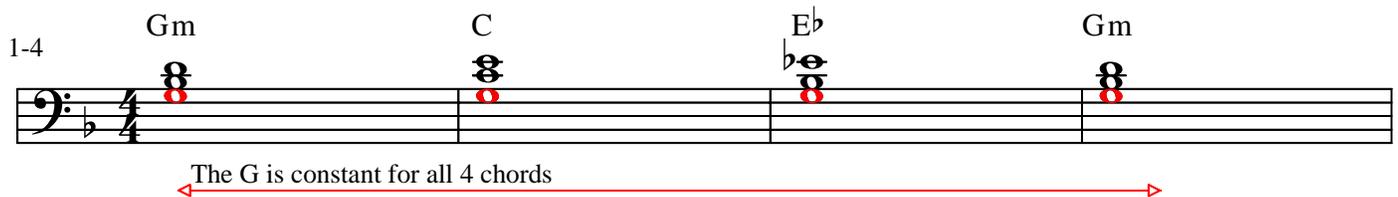
### 1. Start with the Left Hand Chords

1. This is perfect for the student who is beginning chords and needs practice playing straight chords with no arranging.

2. When moving chords, I find notes that are in both chords and keep them constant, moving the chords around those tones.

3. In the staff below, notice I have positioned the chords so that the G remains constant throughout the chords. The G is always placed at the bottom of the chord to make it easier to move the hand.

1-4



The G is constant for all 4 chords

3. Moving from measure 5 to 6, the only note that changes in these two chords is the C moves to C#.

4. Moving from measure 7 to 8, the D remains constant.

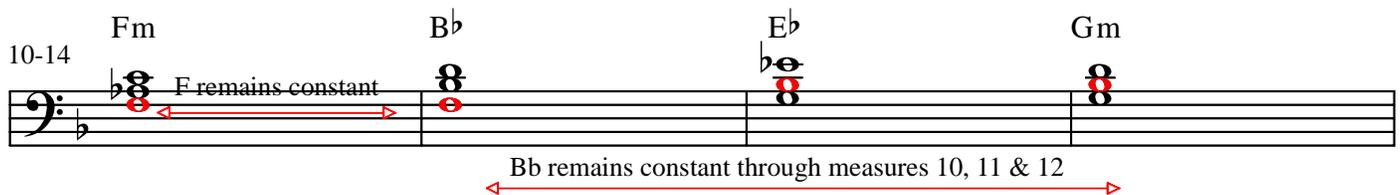
5-8



C moves to C#

D remains constant

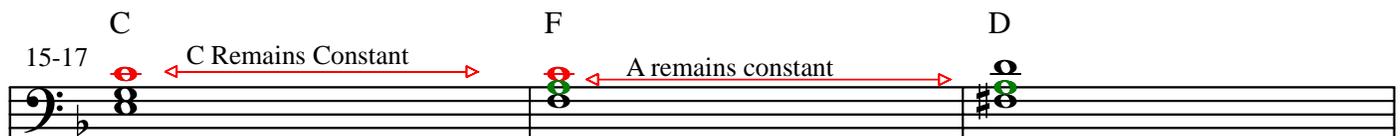
10-14



F remains constant

Bb remains constant through measures 10, 11 & 12

15-17

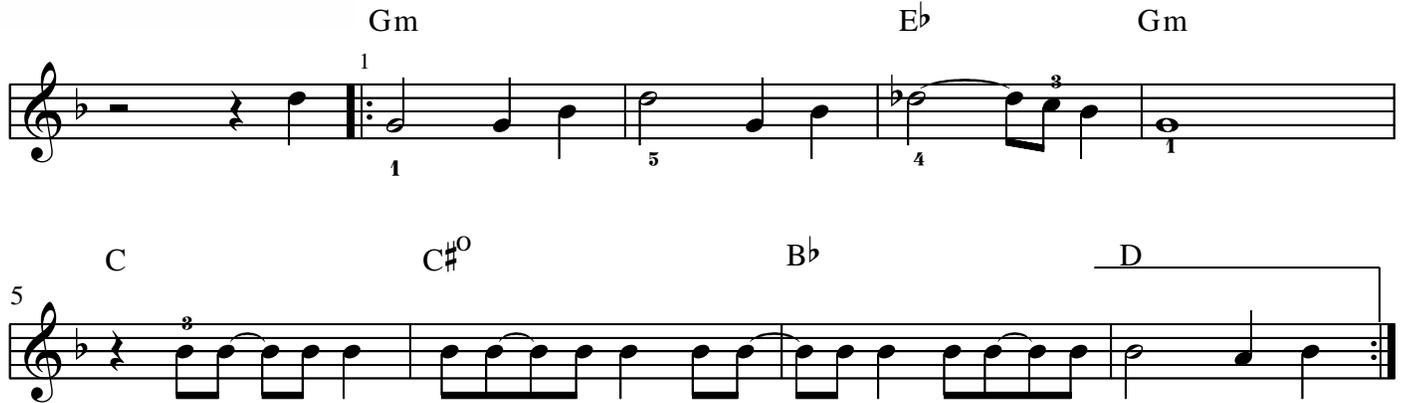


C Remains Constant

A remains constant

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## 2. Right Hand Practice Sheet



Musical notation for the right hand practice sheet, measures 1-4 and 5-8. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Chords are indicated above the staff: Gm, Eb, Gm, C, C#0, Bb, D. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Measure 1 has a repeat sign. Measure 4 has a fermata over the final G note.

How to analyze the right hand for faster learning:

1. Measures 1& 2. There is a G- Bb-D, these are the notes in Gm chord. Place your hand over the notes thinking of Gm chord. You already have memorized measures 1 & 2.



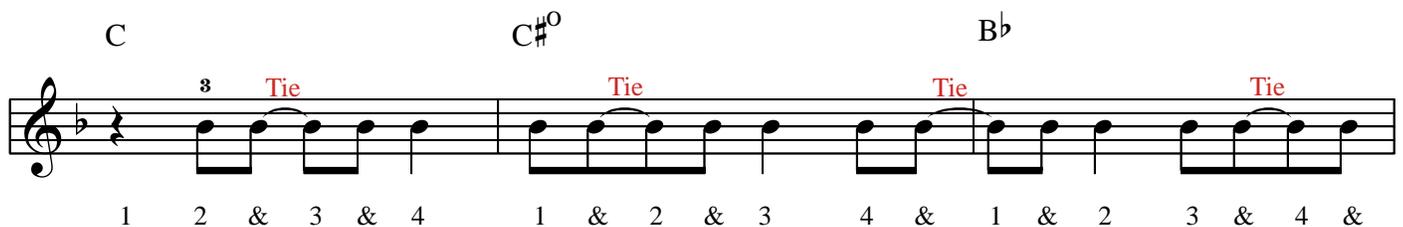
Musical notation for measures 1-2. Chords Gm and C are indicated above the staff. Fingerings 1 and 5 are shown below the notes.

2. Measure 3 Starts on Db and moves consecutive, down to C-Bb-and ends on the G which is the root of Gm chord.



Musical notation for measures 3-4. Chords Eb and Gm are indicated above the staff. Fingerings 4 and 1 are shown below the notes.

3. Measures 5-7 all contain the same melody note. This is excellent for all you have to learn is the rhythm.

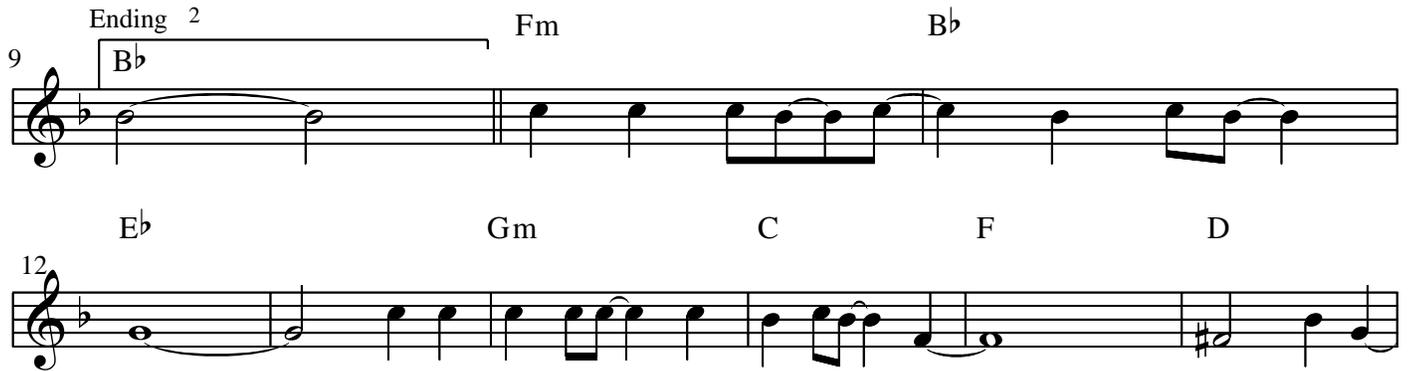


Musical notation for measures 5-8. Chords C, C#0, Bb, and D are indicated above the staff. Red 'Tie' markings are placed above the notes in measures 5, 6, 7, and 8. Rhythm markings (1, 2, &, 3, &, 4) are placed below the staff for each measure.

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## 2. Right Hand Practice Sheet

Ending 2



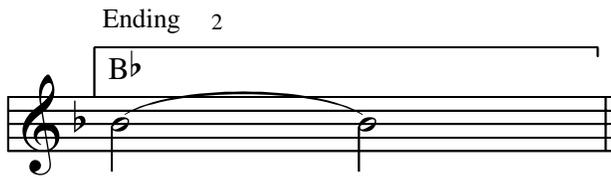
9 B $\flat$  Fm B $\flat$

E $\flat$  Gm C F D

12

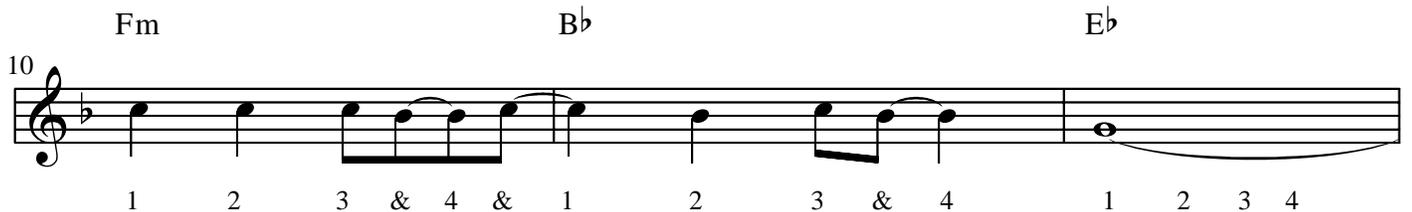
4. Measure 9 melody note is on B $\flat$  just like the Chord which is B $\flat$ .

Ending 2



5. Measures 10-11, only use 2 notes, C & B $\flat$ , but each measure changes the rhythm. This phrase ends on Eb chord, and the melody takes a pause on the G, which is part of the Eb chord.

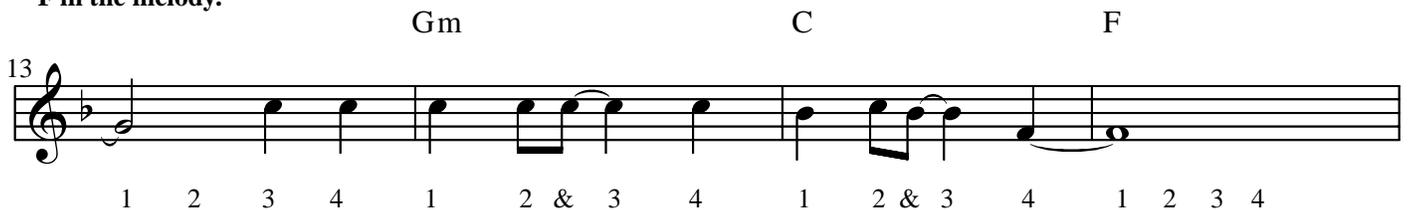
Fm B $\flat$  E $\flat$



10 1 2 3 & 4 & 1 2 3 & 4 1 2 3 4

6. Measures 13-15 also play only C and B $\flat$  with rhythm changes, ending on measure 16 with F chord and F in the melody.

Gm C F



13 1 2 3 4 1 2 & 3 4 1 2 & 3 4 1 2 3 4

# IT DON'T MEAN A THING

Beginning Students, level 8 or Intermediate level 3

Duke Ellington

Gm C Eb Gm

1

C C#o Bb D

Ending 1

5

Ending 2

Bb Fm Bb Eb

9

Gm C F D

13

# IT DON'T MEAN A THING

First system of musical notation for 'It Don't Mean A Thing'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The first measure has a Gm chord and a half note G. The second measure has a C7 chord and a half note C. The third measure has an Eb7 chord and a half note Eb. The fourth measure has a Gm chord and a half note G. The bass staff shows chords for each measure: Gm, C7, Eb7, and Gm.

Second system of musical notation for 'It Don't Mean A Thing'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The first measure has a C chord and a quarter rest. The second measure has a C#0 chord and a quarter note C#. The third measure has a Bb chord and a quarter note Bb. The fourth measure has a Bb chord and a quarter note Bb. The bass staff shows chords for each measure: C, C#0, Bb, and Bb.



# Simply Arranging Playing a Jazz Bass Line

All students, regardless of what level you are at, should have fun songs to play. By understanding music and memorizing your songs, you can have success in playing many songs that are not normally presented to beginning levels.

## Notes for the following arrangement:

1. The key signature has 1 flat, meaning you will flat all the B's in the song.
2. The notes marked in red are notes that are arbitrary. If you are not at this degree of difficulty, you do not have to play them.
3.  $8^{\text{vb}}$  means to either play the notes an octave above or an octave lower. If the symbol is above the notes, then play the notes an octave higher. If the symbol is below the notes, as in our arrangement, play the notes an octave lower. Follow the instructions on the previous page for learning the melody.
4. In the left hand, notice that the bass line is usually the root of the chord. If it is not the root of the chord then it is one of the notes in the chord.



# IT DON'T MEAN A THING

Simply Beginning Arranging

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes G3, G3, Bb3, C4, Bb3, A3, G3. Above the treble staff, the chord Gm is written above the first measure, Eb above the third measure, and Gm above the fourth measure. A red dashed line labeled '8vb' is positioned below the bass staff.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a melody with notes G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The bass staff contains a bass line with notes G3, G3, Bb3, C4, Bb3, A3, G3. Above the treble staff, the chord C is written above the first measure, C#0 above the second measure, and Bb above the third measure. A red dashed line labeled '8vb' is positioned below the bass staff.