

CHAPTER 6

DEVELOPING RIGHT AND LEFT HAND TECHNIQUES

It is important that both right hand and left hand are developed equally. It is quite often that the left hand becomes poorly neglected. There are many ways we can develop good right and left hand technique.

Left Hand

Exercise 1

Exercise 1: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth notes starting on G2. The first note has a fingering '5' below it. The sequence continues with eighth notes across the staff, ending with a quarter rest.

Exercise 2

Exercise 2: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth notes starting on G2. The first note has a fingering '5' below it. The sequence continues with eighth notes across the staff, ending with a quarter rest.

Exercise 3

Exercise 3: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The first note has a fingering '5' below it. The sequence continues with eighth notes and triplets across the staff, ending with a quarter rest.

Exercise 4

Exercise 4: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The first note has a fingering '5' below it. The sequence continues with eighth notes and triplets across the staff, ending with a quarter rest.

Exercise 5 Alternating L.H then R.H.

Exercise 5: A bass clef staff in 4/4 time. The melody consists of eighth notes and triplets. The first note has a fingering '5' below it. The sequence continues with eighth notes and triplets across the staff, ending with a quarter rest.

Exercise 6

Use of tenths in the left hand. The following two exercises will develop strength in the left hand and can be use in ballads or in swing style as an alternative to stride.

Exercise 7

Exercise 8

It is important that piano and keyboard players perform as many exercises and patterns that will give them a consistency in their playing. Even though many times you will be playing with a bass player where not much is required from the left hand, there will be times when you will be asked to play solo where you don't have other musicians to fill out the sound for you and this is when it is important that you have a strong left hand. In these situations you are required to provide the melody, harmony and rhythm.

One of the best books of exercises for developing a strong technique is *Hanon - The Virtuoso Pianist*. It concentrates on developing strength in each finger of both hands even the 4th and 5th fingers which are so often neglected by pianists. I would strongly recommend that you purchase a copy of this book. It is good to also practice chromatic 3rds and 6ths ascending and descending, octaves with both hands together, appoggios and the scales we have covered thus far.