

Creating Accompaniments 1

"Shenandoah": a folk song ballad

American folk song
 Arranged by Ron Drotos

Creating your own accompaniments is a very natural thing to do, once you get used to it. Once learn your chords and a few basic accompaniment styles, you can apply that knowledge to many songs. It's a wonderful feeling to be free from the 'tyranny of sheet music,' so to speak! Here is a 'leadsheet' to the American folk song, "Shenandoah." On the video, I demonstrate several ways to play an accompaniment for this song, from very basic to more advanced.

Slowly and legato

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the first four measures. The second staff continues from measure 4 to measure 8. The third staff contains measures 8 through 12, ending with a double bar line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: D, G, D, G, D, G, F#m, Bm, Bm/A, GMaj7, D/F#, (Em9) D/A, A7, (Em/D) D, (D), and (A7).