

Exploring Contemporary Styles:

Strategies for Playing Celtic, Gospel, Jazz, Pop and Latin Music with Confidence

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Celtic

Style Characteristics

- grace notes
- imitation of bagpipes (bass fifths & drone)
- imitation of Irish flute; improvisatory melodic passages
- use of modes (Dorian, Mixolydian)
- use of characteristic rhythmic patterns:
 - compound meter
 - 3/4 vs. 6/8 hemiola
 - Scotch snap - 8th note on the downbeat followed by a longer note

Representative Publications

Berry, Cindy. "Come Thou Fount" in *Heavenly Blessings*, Alfred.

Labenske, Victor. "Day of Resurrection, The" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.

_____. "Indescribable" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.

_____. "O Thou in Whose Presence" in *Great Things He Has Done*. Alfred.

_____. "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing (Sussex Carol)" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*. Alfred.

_____. "This is My Father's World" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.

_____. "We Gather Together" in *Grateful Praise*. Lillenas.

Sanborn, Jan. "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" in *A Month of Sundays: Thanksgiving and Praise*. Alfred.

Black Gospel

Style Characteristics

- compound meter (6/8, 9/8, 12/8)
- scales: pentatonic; blues (with resulting dominant 7th chords on 1st and 4th scale degrees)
- vocal ornamentation (imitation of blues vocal style, including scoops)
- mix of slur and staccato articulations
- trio harmony: imitates Hammond organ
- emphasis on beats 2 and 4 when in quadruple meter
- syncopation
- slow, rhythmically-free melody followed by a faster melody in tempo (stride)
- reprise
- walking bass
- characteristic harmonies

Representative Publications

Bober, Melody. "Spiritual Medley" in *Praise in Many Colors*. Lillenas.

Ham, Marilyn. "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" in *The Fruit of the Spirit*. Alfred.

Hayes, Mark. "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" in *Open My Heart to Worship*. Alfred.

Hyzer, Matt. "Rescue the Perishing" in *Sharing the Good News*. Alfred.

Keveren, Phillip. *African American Spirituals*, Hal Leonard.

Labenske, Victor. "Amazing Grace" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.

_____. "Amazing Grace" in *We Believe*. Lillenas.

_____. "America the Beautiful" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.

_____. "Blessed Assurance" in *Great Things He Has Done*. Alfred.

_____. "Comforter Has Come, The" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.

_____. "His Eye is on the Sparrow" in *Jesus Shall Reign*. FJH.

_____. "I'll Live for Him" in *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Lillenas.

_____. "I Need Thee Every Hour" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.

_____. "Joy to the World" in *How Great Our Joy*. Lillenas.

_____. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" in *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Lillenas.

_____. "O Come All Ye Faithful" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.

_____. "Sheltering Grace Medley" in *Heaven's Song*, Lillenas.

_____. "There is Power in the Blood" in *Hallelujah! Amen!* Lillenas.

_____. "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" in *Higher Ground*. Lillenas.

_____. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" in *Heaven's Song*, Lillenas.


Olson, Kevin. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in *Duet Treasures*, Book 2. FJH.

Sanborn, Jan. "Blessed Assurance" in *Joy and Assurance*. Alfred.

Shackley, Larry. "I Must Tell Jesus" in *Hymns for a Jazzy Sunday Morning*. Alfred.

Jazz

Style Characteristics

- syncopation
- emphasis on beats 2 and 4 when in 4/4
- scales such as blues, modes and diminished
- imitation of other rhythm section instruments (i.e. string bass, drum set)
- walking bass line
- extended harmonies (7th, 9th, 11th, 13th chords)
- quartal harmonies (built on 4ths)
- swing rhythm 
- improvisatory melodic sections
- 5th progressions
- tritone substitution (°II substitutes for V)

Representative Publications

- Bober, Melody. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" in *A Call to Prayer*. Alfred.
- Johnson, Bernadine. "Standing on the Promises" in *The Word of God*. Alfred.
- Labenske, Victor. "Amazing Grace" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.
- _____. "Amen" in *Great Things He Has Done*. Alfred.
- _____. "Christ the Lord is Risen Today" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- _____. "Count Your Blessings" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- _____. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" in *Go, Tell It on the Mountain!* Alfred.
- _____. "Joshua Fit the Battle" in *Hallelujah! Amen!* Lillenas.
- _____. "This Little Light of Mine" in *Grateful Praise*. Lillenas.
- _____. "Trust and Obey" in *Heaven's Song*, Lillenas.
- _____. "Ukrainian Bell Carol" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- _____. "We Three Kings" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- _____. "When We All Get to Heaven" in *Higher Ground*, Lillenas.
- _____. "When We All Get to Heaven" in *Worship Suite for Violin and Piano*. Lillenas.
- Shackley, Larry. *Hymns for a Jazzy Sunday Morning*. Alfred.
- Vandall, Robert. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in *Heaven Our Home*. Alfred.

Pop

Style Characteristics

- 4/4 time; emphasis on 2 and 4
- imitation of drum set, bass and guitar (driving beat; alternating octave leaps; LH dotted rhythms: ♩ ♪ ♩ ♪)
- syncopation
- simple harmonies, often repetitive
- pedal point
- trio voicing

Representative Publications

- Gerou, Tom and Victor Labenske. *Play Praise Most Requested*, Books 1-5. Alfred.
- Hayes, Mark. "Let Everything That Has Breath" in *Open My Heart to Worship*. Alfred.
- _____. "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" in *Gospel Classics*. Alfred.
- _____. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" in *Gospel Classics*. Alfred.
- Labenske, Victor. "A Mighty Fortress" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.
- _____. "All Glory, Laud and Honor" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- _____. "Angels from the Realms of Glory" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- _____. "Angels We Have Heard on High" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- _____. "Blessed Be Your Name" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.
- _____. "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- _____. "Forever" in *Grateful Praise*. Lillenas.
- _____. "Hallelujah" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.
- _____. "Praise Him! Praise Him" in *We Believe*. Lillenas.
- _____. "Star-Spangled Banner, The" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- _____. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" in *Jesus Shall Reign*. FJH.
- _____. "You're Worthy of My Praise" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.

