

# Performance Practice in Contemporary Stylings:

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

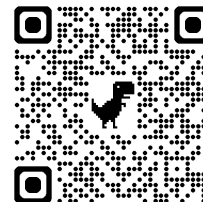
Georgia Music Teachers Association Conference, November 7, 2024

**Dr. Victor Labenske**

Point Loma Nazarene University

San Diego, CA

[www.labenske.com](http://www.labenske.com)



## 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.

Bober, Melody. "Daybreak in Dublin." Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Fantasy on Londonderry Air." Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. *From the Emerald Isle*. Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Irish Suite." Willis.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Loch Lomond." Willis.

Goldston, Christopher. "Cornflower Air" in *In Recital Vol. 1 Book 2*. Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Luck of the Irish" in *Fantastic Fingers*, Book 2. Alfred.

Keveren, Phillip. *The Celtic Collection*. Hal Leonard.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Celtic Dreams*. Hal Leonard.

Labenske, Victor. "In Dreams" in *Popular Performer: Movies*. Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Indescribable" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.

\_\_\_\_\_. "O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus" in *Sunday Morning Styles Companion*. 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.

\_\_\_\_\_. "What Child is This?" in *Sunday Morning Christmas Companion*, Alfred.

Matz, Carol. "McGuire's Jig" in *Scenes from Around the World*. ALFRED.

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

## Black Gospel

### Style Characteristics

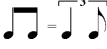
- compound meter (6/8, 9/8, 12/8)
- scales: pentatonic; major blues (with resulting dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords on 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> scale degrees)
- vocal ornamentation (imitation of blues vocal style, including scoops)
- mix of slur and staccato articulations
- trio harmony: imitates Gospel choral texture
- 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*. Lorenz.
- 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*. Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" in *Sunday Morning Praise Companion*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "America the Beautiful" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Blessed Assurance" in *Great Things He Has Done*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Comforter Has Come" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Go Tell It on the Mountain" in *Born is the Holy Infant*, Kjos.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" in *Rejoice and Give Thanks*. Kjos.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" in *Artistry in Worship*, Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "His Eye is on the Sparrow" in *Jesus Shall Reign*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "How Can I Keep from Singing" in *Sunday Morning Praise Companion*, Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "I Need Thee Every Hour" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "I'll Live for Him" in *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" in *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "O Come All Ye Faithful" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sheltering Grace Medley" in *Heaven's Song*, Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Sweet Hour of Prayer" in *Sunday Morning Styles Companion*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "There is Power in the Blood" in *Hallelujah! Amen!* Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" in *Higher Ground*. Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" in *Heaven's Song*, Lorenz.
- Olson, Kevin. "Sunday Morning Revival" in *In Recital With Jazz, Blues, & Rags*, Book 4. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" in *Duet Treasures*, Book 2. Alfred.
- Sanborn, Jan. "Blessed Assurance" in *Joy and Assurance*. Alfred.
- Shackley, Larry. "I Must Tell Jesus" in *Hymns for a Jazzy Sunday Morning*. Alfred.
- Vandall, Robert. "Amen Corner" in *Vandall Stylings, U.S.A.* Alfred.

## Jazz

### Style Characteristics

- swing rhythm 
- syncopation
- emphasis on beats 2 and 4 when in 4/4
- scales such as blues, modes and diminished
- walking bass line
- extended harmonies (7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> chords)
- quartal harmonies (built on 4ths)
- improvisatory melodic sections
- 5<sup>th</sup> progressions
- tritone substitution ( $\beta$ II substitutes for V)

### Representative Publications

- Alexander, Dennis. "Almost a Waltz" in *Just for You*, Book 2. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Give Me Five" in *The Magic of Music*, Book 3. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Got the Feelin'" in *Just for You*, Book 3. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Jumpin' the Ivories" in *Just for You*, Book 3. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Lots o' Blues" in *Especially for Adults*, Book 2. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "One of a Kind" in *Just for You*, Book 4. Alfred.
- Bober, Melody. "006 Blues" in *Grand Solos for Piano*, Book 6. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Evening Snowfall" in *Grand Solos for Piano*, Book 6. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Just a Closer Walk with Thee" in *A Call to Prayer*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Suite Alabama: A Jazz Sonatina." Alfred.
- Goldston, Christopher. "Cool Cat Strut" in *Fantastic Fingers*, Book 2. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Oh, So Blue" in *On Stage*, Book 3. Alfred.
- Johnson, Bernadine. "Standing on the Promises" in *The Word of God*. Alfred.
- Keveren, Phillip. *Classical Jazz*. Hal Leonard.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Jingle Jazz*. Hal Leonard.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *The Vince Guaraldi Collection*. Hal Leonard.
- Kowalchyk, Gayle and E. L. Lancaster. *Boogie 'n' Blues*, Books 1-2. Alfred.
- Labenske, Victor. "Amazing Grace" in *Sunday Morning Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus" in *To God Be the Glory*. Kjos.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Amen" in *Great Things He Has Done*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *A Jazzy, Jolly Christmas*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Be Thou My Vision" in *To God Be the Glory*. Kjos.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Blue Moon" in *Generations: Baby Boomers: 1953-63 (Advanced)*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Brethren, We Have Met to Worship" in *Sunday Morning Styles Companion*, 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.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" in *Sunday Morning Christmas Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "He Keeps Me Singing" in *Artistry in Worship*. Lorenz.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Joshua Fit the Battle" in *Hallelujah! Amen!* Lorenz.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee" in *To God Be the Glory*. Kjos.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Mack the Knife" in *Generations: Baby Boomers: 1953-63 (Advanced)*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Misty" in *Generations: Baby Boomers: 1953-63 (Advanced)*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Moondance" in *Generations: Baby Boomers: 1964-74 (Advanced)*. Alfred.

- \_\_\_\_\_. "Not Much Time for the Blues" in *Piano Miniatures*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "People" in *Popular Performer: Movies*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Plaza Jazz" in *Show Me Missouri!* Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Silent Night" in *Born is the Holy Infant*. Kjos.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Singin' in the Rain" in *Popular Performer: Movies*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "The Holly and the Ivy" in *Glory Shown Around*. Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Trust and Obey" in *Heaven's Song*, Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Ukrainian Bell Carol" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "We Three Kings" in *Now Proclaim Messiah's Birth*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "What a Wonderful World" in *Generations: Baby Boomers: 1953-63* (Advanced). Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "When We All Get to Heaven" in *Higher Ground*, Lorenz.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "When We All Get to Heaven" in *Worship Suite for Violin and Piano*. Lorenz.
- Marlais, Helen, ed. *In Recital with Jazz, Blues and Rags*. Books 1-6. Alfred.
- Matz, Carol. *In Tune with Jazz & Blues*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *I Used to Play Piano, 40s and 50s Hits*. Alfred.
- Mier, Martha. *Christmas Jazz, Rags and Blues*. Books 1-4. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Classical Jazz, Rags and Blues*. Books 1-4. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jazz, Rags and Blues*. Books 1-5. Alfred.
- Minsky, Larry. *Impressions of Jazz*. Kjos.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jazz Kaleidoscope*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Shades of Jazz*. Kjos.
- Olson, Kevin. *Jazzed Up! Christmas*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jazzed Up! Classical*. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jazzed Up! Folk Songs*. Alfred.
- Olson, Kevin and Edwin McLean. *In the Key of Jazz*, Books 1-2. Alfred.
- Rollin, Catherine. "Big City Blues" in *Favorite Solos*, Book 3. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Jazz a Little, Jazz a Lot*, Books 1-3. Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Jazz Gems." Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. *Spotlight on Jazz Style*. Alfred.
- Shackley, Larry. *Hymns for a Jazzy Sunday Morning*. Alfred.
- Vandall, Robert. "Boogie Blast." Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "Boogie Man." Alfred.
- \_\_\_\_\_. "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:  $\theta\kappa \ \varepsilon \ \theta\kappa \ \varepsilon$ )
- syncopation
- simple harmonies, often repetitive
- pedal point
- trio voicing







Representative Publications

- Alexander, Dennis. "Be Boppin' Boogie" in *The Magic of Music*, Book 3. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Blue Boogie" in *A Splash of Color*, Book 1. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Boogie on Down" in *First Showstoppers*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Cool Move" in *Just for You*, Book 4. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Dreamin'." Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Got Those Boogie Blues" in *The Magic of Music*, Book 1. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Just Groovin'." in *Especially for Adults*, Book 3. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Newport Rock" in *Favorite Solos*, Book 2. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Pumpkin Boogie, The." Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Screamin' Cat Boogie" in *Favorite Solos*, Book 2. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Shout it Out!" Alfred.  
Bober, Melody. *Popular Performer: Mercer*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Popular Performer: Gershwin*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Simply Movie Love Themes*. Alfred.  
Gerou, Tom and Victor Labenske. *Play Praise Most Requested*, Books 1-5. Alfred.  
Goldston, Christopher. "5 O'clock Rock" in *In Recital Vol.1 Book 1*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Red Hot Boogie." 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.  
Keveren, Phillip. *Motown Hits*. Hal Leonard.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Pop Ballads*. Hal Leonard.  
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.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "As with Gladness Men of Old" in *Glory Shown Around*. Lorenz.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Birthday of the King, The" in *Sunday Morning Christmas Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Blessed Be Your Name" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Carefree" in *Piano Miniatures*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Doxology" in *To God Be the Glory*. Kjos.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Forever" in *Sunday Morning Christian Hits Companion*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Generations: Baby Boomers, 1953-63 (Advanced)*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Generations: Baby Boomers, 1964-73 (Advanced)*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Hallelujah" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" in *Born is the Holy Infant*. Kjos.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" in *Sunday Morning Styles Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Praise Him! Praise Him" in *We Believe*. Lorenz  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Star-Spangled Banner, The" in *Sunday Morning Holiday Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Sunday Morning Praise Companion*, Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Tough Break" in *Piano Miniatures*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" in *Jesus Shall Reign*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Wind Beneath My Wings" in *Popular Performer: Movies*. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "You're Worthy of My Praise" in *The Power of Worship*. Alfred.  
Matz, Carol. *Famous & Fun Pop*, Books 1-5. Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Famous & Fun for Adults: Pop*, Books 1-5. Alfred.  
Rollin, Catherine. "Rock Ballad." Alfred.  
\_\_\_\_\_. "Summer Ballad." Alfred.

- Vandall, Robert. "Ripples" in *Vandall Stylings, U.S.A.* Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Rock Improvisation" in *Contrasts*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Rock Zone." Alfred.

## Latin

### Style Characteristics

- triethnic influence (African, European, indigenous)
- syncopated rhythms
  - Salsa  $\frac{4}{4}$  
  - Cha Cha  $\frac{4}{4}$  
  - Calypso  $\frac{4}{4}$  
  - Rumba 
  - Bossa nova  $\frac{4}{4}$  
  - Tango  $\frac{4}{4}$  
- hemiola/alternation of simple and compound metric patterns
- harmony
  - in parallel thirds/sixths (Mariachi)
  - i -  $\beta$ VII - VI - V
- ornamentation

### Representative Publications

- Alexander, Dennis. "Adios, el Amor Dulce." Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "El Zapateado" in *Favorite Solos, Book 2*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Fiesta Fever" in *Just for You, Book 2*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Flamenco Fever!" in *Especially for Adults, Book 1*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Rapsodia Espanola" in *Keys to Artistic Performance, Book 2*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Tropical Nights" in *Just for You, Book 4*. Alfred.  
 Goldston, Christopher. "Fiesta Cha-Cha" in *Fantastic Fingers, Book 1*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Festiva." ALFRED.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Taco-tina" in *On Stage, Book 1*. Alfred.  
 Labenske, Victor. "Come, Christians Join to Sing" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Come, Christians Join to Sing" in *Keys to Praise*. Ron Harris.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Danza Española" in *Piano Miniatures*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" in *Sunday Morning Companion*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Grand Canyon Fiesta" in *Four Corners Suite*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" in *Sunday Morning Styles Companion*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "Latin Drums" in *Piano Miniatures*. Alfred.  
 \_\_\_\_\_. "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" in *Heaven's Song*, Lorenz.  
 Rollin, Catherine. *Dancing on the Keys*, Books 1-2. Alfred.  
 Vandall, Robert. "Exotica." Alfred.

## Other Resources

Aebersold, Jamey. *How to Play Jazz and Improvise*. Jamey Aebersold Jazz.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The ii/V7/I Progression*. Jamey Aebersold Jazz.

Chung, Brian and Dennis Thurmond. *Improvisation at the Piano*. Alfred.

Gordon, Andrew D. and Carlos Campos. *Ultimate Latin Riffs for Piano/Keyboards*. ADG Productions.

Harrison, Mark, *Gospel Keyboard Styles*. Hal Leonard.

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Pop Piano Book*. Hal Leonard.

Smith, Gail. *You Can Teach Yourself Gospel Piano*. Mel Bay.