

Continuing with 9th chords: When playing chord melody, select songs in which the melody does not move too far or too fast. Some easy songs for this purpose are "Drifting and Dreaming," "The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise," "Don't Blame Me" and "June Night." Before attempting the songs, practice harmonizing the scales of the five keys used for most popular music. It is necessary to understand 3-part chords before adding a fourth part. (Review O.P.M. in March/April THEATRE ORGAN.)

ORGAN-IZING

POPULAR MUSIC

by
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If you will study, analyze and practice this first exercise harmonizing the C scale with 3-part chord melody, you will find that 4-part chord melody follows with just a little effort. By analyzing, I mean to realize which note is the 3rd, 5th and 7th of each chord. Then apply the same procedure to the F, G, B^b and E^b scales. The chords are I V⁷ I⁷ IV I II⁷ V⁷ I, in each key. You should then be able to play songs with 3-part chord melody. Notice the nice clear sound and texture this produces.

The next step is to add the 6th to the major and minor chords and the 9th to the 7th chords as shown in the C scale with 4-part chord melody. The 7-9 sign on the 7th note of each scale means to add a flat 9th. This is the same as raising the root of the chord one-half tone. This chord is often called for on the next to the last note of a song. It is not necessary to duplicate these 6th and 9ths in the left-hand accompaniment chords. Listen to the sound — the fuller, thicker texture these chords produce. I do not say that this is a better sound; many prefer the clear sound of 3-part harmony.

When you can play the C scale easily, then play the others the same way. If you understand the process, they will be quite easy. If you depend on seeing the notes written, as in the C scale, then you haven't learned what is necessary to play chord melody. Additional study and experimenting at the keyboard should be helpful.

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