



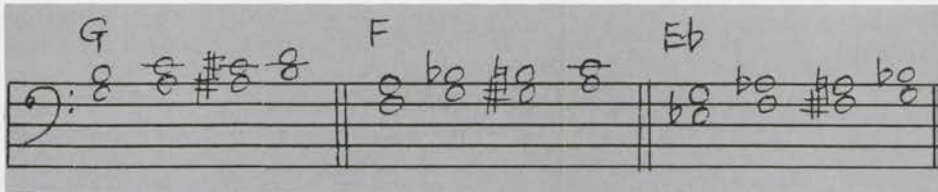
ORGAN-IZING POPULAR MUSIC

by
AL HERMANN'S

FILL — 1

There are a number of easy Fill-in devices which the best theatre and radio organists have been using since the 1920s to make their left hand accompaniments sound more interesting than holding or repeating the same chord for several measures. They are called Fills because they fill in the empty space when the melody stops on a long note. As long as the melody keeps moving, most listeners do not pay much attention to the accompaniment; but when the melody stops on a long note, a plain rhythmic accompaniment stands out like a German band. When playing solo melody, these fills are played with the left hand. When playing chord melody, they can be played with the right hand or both hands, depending on the duration of the melody note.

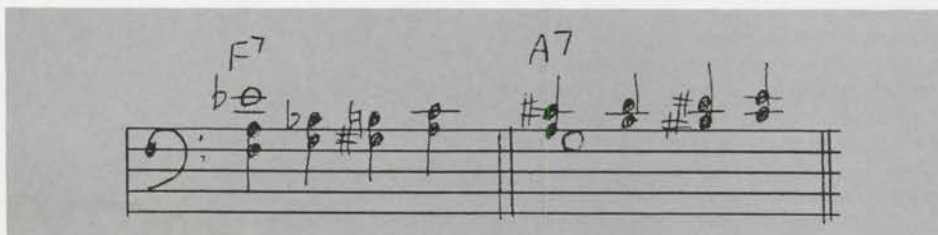
Fill #1 is the most useful and can be heard frequently in organ, piano and orchestral music. Whenever the melody stops for three or more beats on any note EXCEPT THE 3RD of a major or seventh chord: start on the 1st and 3rd of the chord and move upward to the 3rd and 5th as shown in these examples.



Play these examples many times slowly with the left hand and listen carefully. They should all sound the same. Notice how they are formed on the keyboard. The top part moves upward by half tones from the 3rd to the 5th of each chord. The lower part moves one whole tone and then two half tones from the 1st to the 3rd. Since they all move upward, it is usually best to start with the 3rd and 5th fingers. Any finger playing a black key should slide off to the next white key to avoid awkward crossing or changing fingers.

After studying these examples, figure them out and learn to play them on all the other frequently used major chords. C is the highest, starting on middle C and E. D is the lowest, starting on D and F# an octave lower. They will all either begin or end between the 2 F's near middle C. At this point don't waste time practicing them on B, F#, and C# chords because you may never need them.

When playing this Fill on 7th chords, hold the 7th. When the Fill is low (D7 to G7) hold the 7th on top with the thumb. When the fill is high (A7 to C7) hold the 7th with the 5th finger.



To explain and illustrate all the possible uses for this Fill would require 3 or 4 pages — SO — for additional instruction, study Lesson 14 in "ORGAN-izing Popular Music" and/or send \$10.00 for a one hour cassette on Left Hand Fill-In Devices. (See ad on page 57).

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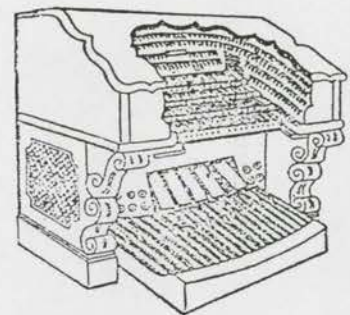
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very much if he practices it
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or money —
but even practices it without
any hope of doing it well.*

G.K. CHESTERTON

