

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to *Blues Piano*. If you've always wanted to "play the blues," but weren't quite sure how, then you've come to the right place! Whatever your playing level, this book will help you sound more authentic in your blues piano stylings.

After reviewing some essential chords and scales, we'll dig into the left- and right-hand techniques that are vital for the blues pianist. We'll focus on "comping" (or accompaniment) patterns as well as "solo" passages and fills. This will all help you to create your own piano parts on a variety of blues tunes and progressions!

We'll also spotlight the playing techniques and styles used by some of the major blues pianists of the 20th century, so that you can incorporate this essential vocabulary into your own music. Tunes in various blues styles (such as boogie woogie, Chicago blues, jump blues, New Orleans style, etc.) are all featured in the "Style File" chapter at the end of the book, and on the accompanying CD.

Good luck with your blues piano!

—Mark Harrison

About the CD

On the accompanying CD, you'll find demonstrations of nearly all of the music examples in this book. Solo examples feature the left-hand piano part on the left channel, and the right-hand piano part on the right channel, to facilitate easy "hands separate" practice. Most of the recordings in Chapter 6 ("Style File") include a rhythm section as well as piano. For these tunes, the rhythm section is on the left channel, with the piano on the right channel. To play along with the rhythm section, simply turn down the right channel.

About the Author

Mark Harrison is a *Keyboard Magazine* columnist and an educational author whose books are used by thousands of musicians worldwide. His TV credits include *Saturday Night Live*, *American Justice*, *Celebrity Profiles*, and many other shows and commercials. As a working keyboardist in the Los Angeles area, Mark performs regularly with the top-flight Steely Dan tribute band Doctor Wu, as well as the critically-acclaimed Mark Harrison Quintet. He has also shared the stage with top musicians such as John Molo (Bruce Hornsby band) and Jimmy Haslip (Yellowjackets), and is currently co-writing an R&B/pop project with the Grammy-winning songwriter Ron Dunbar. For further information on Mark's musical activities and education products, please visit www.harrisonmusic.com.