Let's Improvise a Duet!

A lesson on making interactive music with your students

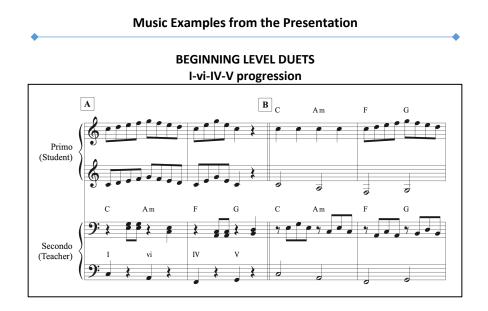
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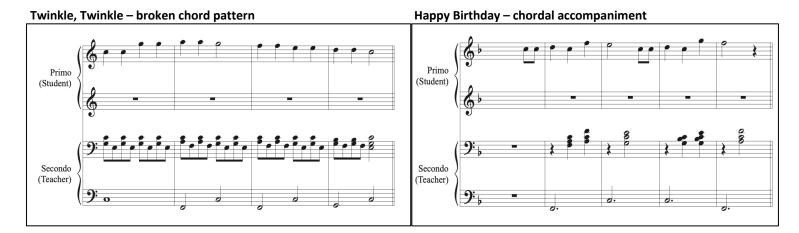
Yuko Maruyama, MM, MPIA

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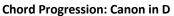
Presentation Summary: Improvisation fosters students' creativity and nurtures self-expression. Playing duets is an excellent way for your students to start improvising because they can learn to listen and interact with each other spontaneously by having a partner playing along with them. Besides the sheer enjoyment of playing collaboratively, piano duets are also a valuable ensemble activity for your students that help develop teamwork, ear training skills, and musical interaction. When you learn basic accompanying elements, you as a teacher can naturally create simple supporting harmony for your students to play along and improvise with, without relying on a pre-arranged accompaniment score.

About the Presenter: Yuko Maruyama is a pianist-composer-arranger from Tokyo, Japan. She holds a Master's degree in Jazz Studies from USC. A Kawai Pianos recording and performing artist, Yuko has toured the U.S. with her acclaimed 2002 album, "In Tone Nation," which was the premiere jazz recording of the all-hand-crafted Shigeru Kawai concert grand piano from Japan. She currently serves as the MTAC Improvisation State Chair and is also the president of the MTAC San Diego Branch.

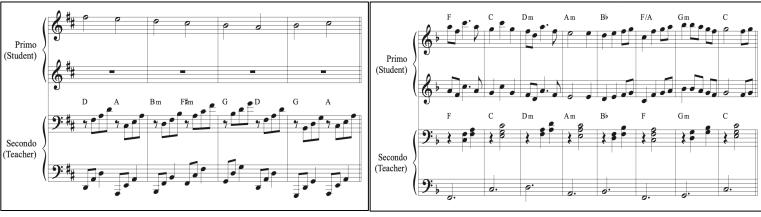




INTERMEDIATE LEVEL DUETS



Lead Sheet: Always with Me – chordal accompaniment



Lead Sheet: Always with Me – arpeggiated accompaniment



ADVANCED LEVEL DUETS Lead Sheet Notation



ADVANCED LEVEL DUETS

"You Do Something To Me" - Accompaniment Style Examples (Secondo) [Stride] $E\flat 6$ [Stride - medium swing] [Walking Bass - medium swing] [Bossa - medium] [Samba - fast] [Rubato] oo