

# Jazz/Rock Course

A Complete Approach to Playing on both Acoustic and Electronic Keyboards

## Bert Konowitz

**J**azz and rock music are an important part of today's musical scene, yet they play only a small part in most piano students' formal training. With technology taking on a more important role in many music studios, the need for a Jazz/Rock Course that offers the option of combining the acoustic piano and the electronic keyboard is evident. In addition, look at the variety of performance skills that can be enhanced by this Course: improved rhythmic ability, steadier tempo, heightened listening acuity (due to 2nd parts and electronic rhythm backgrounds), increased sensitivity to the stylistic demands of the music, and finally, the special word when it comes to creativity—*improvisation*. For the first time, improvisation is introduced and structured in such a way that it makes it possible for *everyone* to succeed.

This book is uniquely written to be played on either a traditional acoustic piano or an electronic keyboard. At the bottom of each page, suggestions are offered for ways that acoustic and electronic instruments may be used together. **Acoustic Jamming** suggestions offer a supportive left-hand accompaniment that may be added by an experienced pianist or a teacher. **Electronic Jamming** suggestions offer specific sounds and *rhythm backgrounds* that may be used when playing on an electronic keyboard. The electronic *rhythm backgrounds* may also be added as an accompaniment when performing on an acoustic piano.

While Alfred's Jazz/Rock Course may be used by pianists with previous training or students taking private lessons, the opportunities for varied performance experiences are expanded when used in group or class lessons. Students studying from Alfred's Basic Adult Piano Course, Level 1, may begin this Jazz/Rock Course when they have reached page 73 of the Adult Course. When used this way, the Jazz/Rock Course creates a high degree of student enthusiasm by introducing a "new" sound into the piano lesson. This new sound, while being "different" when compared to what the student has been playing, is the popular and familiar sound of jazz and rock.

Also available is an optional audio CD that contains all the pieces in this book up through page 85. The performer will be able to hear each piece exactly as it should be played, with or without an instrumental accompaniment. You can play along with the keyboard parts and/or with the instrumental accompaniments. The right channel gives prominence to the keyboard part the student will be playing; the left channel gives prominence to an instrumental accompaniment designed to be played along with the keyboard part; by centering the channels, you can hear both the keyboard and the instrumental accompaniment together, at equal volume. The CD (#14519) is available from your music dealer or direct from the publisher.

Many thanks are due to Paul Woodring who was extremely helpful in the layout of the Jazz/Rock Course. In addition, he was an excellent sounding board in sorting out complex musical questions.

*Dedicated to Jessica, Rachel, Zachary and Sarah*

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# EASY DOES IT

Jazz/Rock accents are used on lines 1 and 2. To create a pretty contrast, play lines 3 and 4 without accents. Why not experiment and add or take out accents at various other places?

Play the eighth notes in a Jazz style — it will really sound lazy that way!

## Nice 'n' easy

5

9

13

*mp*

*mf*

*D.C. al Fine*

## ACOUSTIC JAMMING:

5

9

13

*mp*

*mf*

*D.C. al Fine*

## ELECTRONIC JAMMING:

REGISTER: Flute/Clarinet/Electric Piano RHYTHM: Jazz

# B♭ Blues Scale Performance Piece

## GOIN' HOME

This recital piece should be played in a very determined manner. If you have ever longed to get home after being away, then you'll know how to achieve just the right mood for this solo.

**Slowly**

*mp*

*Fine*

5

9

13

*D.C. al Fine*

**ACOUSTIC JAMMING:** Play an octave lower.

*Fine*

5

(% = repeat previous measure)

9

13

*D.C. al Fine*

**ELECTRONIC JAMMING:**

REGISTER: Cosmic/Funky Synth RHYTHM: Rock or Jazz