

Session 1

Syncopation and ragtime

Syncopation is a rhythm which is played off the main beat(s) of the bar.

Style spotlight

The ragtime era began in the 1890s and made a feature of syncopated rhythm. Pieces were usually in $\frac{2}{4}$ or $\frac{4}{4}$, with a left-hand pattern of bass notes on strong beats (1 and 3) and chords on weak beats (2 and 4), accompanying a syncopated melody in the right hand. The name ragtime came from describing the syncopation as 'ragged' rhythm.

1 Performance piece **Rocket rag!**

Listen to track 1 and clap the right-hand rhythm before playing this piece.

Not fast

1. 3 1 2 1

mf

2

6 1

4

10 *f*

Filling in the gaps

Improvise over the left-hand chords, using notes from the pentatonic scale given.
Start off by improvising over the backing track given.

29 Pentatonic magic 1

With sparkle $\text{♩}=\text{♩}^3$



30 Pentatonic magic 2

Dreamily (straight)



Improvising over chords

Try to fit a simple melody over these accompaniments. Use the suggested openings to give you ideas and make up your own titles.

Do not fear mistakes – there are none!
Miles Davis

47

With sadness

Musical score for exercise 47, titled "With sadness". It is in 4/4 time and marked *mp*. The piece consists of four measures. The chords are Am, Dm/A, E/G#, and Am. The right hand has a simple melody: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The left hand provides accompaniment with chords: Am (G2, C3, E3), Dm/A (A2, C3, E3), E/G# (G2, B2, D3), and Am (G2, C3, E3).

48

Lively

Musical score for exercise 48, titled "Lively". It is in 6/8 time and marked *f*. The first system consists of four measures with chords C, F/C, G/B, and C. The right hand has a melody: a dotted quarter note C4, an eighth note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The left hand has a bass line with chords: C (C2, E2, G2), F/C (C2, F2, A2), G/B (B1, D2, F2), and C (C2, E2, G2).

Musical score for exercise 48, second system. It consists of four measures with chords C, F/C, G/D, and C/E. The right hand has a melody: a dotted quarter note C4, an eighth note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The left hand has a bass line with chords: C (C2, E2, G2), F/C (C2, F2, A2), G/D (D2, F2, A2), and C/E (C2, E2, G2).

49

Peacefully

Musical score for exercise 49, titled "Peacefully". It is in 3/4 time and marked *p*. The first system consists of four measures with chords D, D/C#, Bm, and D/A. The right hand has a melody: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The left hand has a bass line with chords: D (D2, F2, A2), D/C# (C#2, D2, F2), Bm (B1, D2, F2), and D/A (D2, F2, A2).

Musical score for exercise 49, second system. It consists of four measures with chords Em, A7, D, and D. The right hand has a melody: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4. The left hand has a bass line with chords: Em (E2, G2, B2), A7 (A2, C3, E3), D (D2, F2, A2), and D (D2, F2, A2).