DEVELOPING
A BASIC BALLAD STYLE

A STRUCTURED APPROACH

BALLAD STYLE
A STRUCTURED APPROACH

Hopefully you have had some fun improvising with the PENTATONIC scale over your simple three note LEFT HAND pattern.

Now let's look at various ways in which you can make your playing more musically structured and hopefully more exciting.

FIRST - we will learn a variation of the 3 note left hand ballad style pattern

THEN - We will learn how to use the chord changes to guide the right hand

In the previous examples you were able to use ONE scale over the four chord changes. This works very well but obviously has it's limitations.

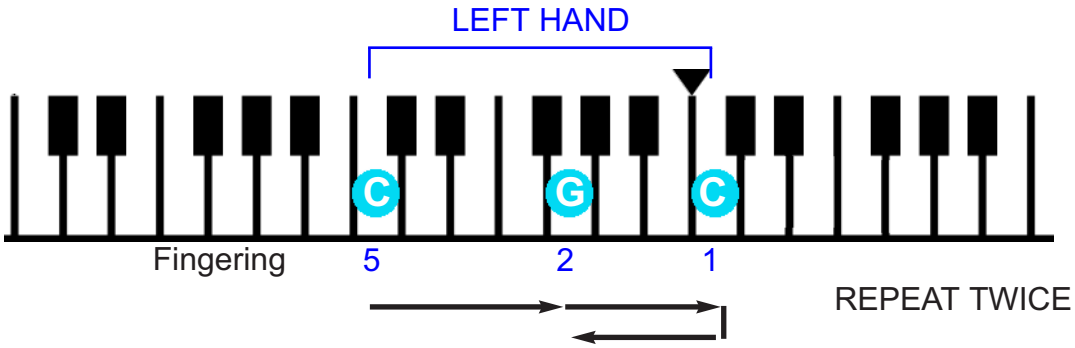
We will learn how each chord change can help us determine which notes will sound best in the Right Hand. This will give us more choice and will bring more structure to our arrangements.

BALLAD STYLE

EXERCISE 1 - A variation on the left hand 3 note pattern

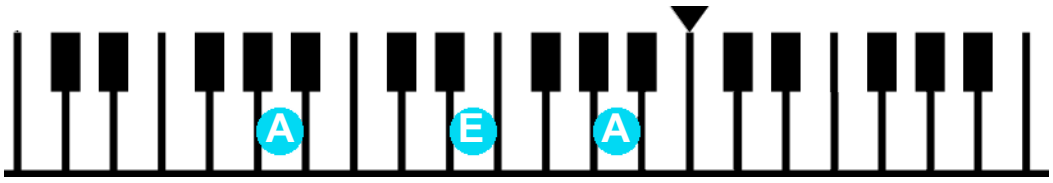
Play the following sequence of notes (based on the chord of C) ONE note at a time from the low C up to the G up to the C **and back down to the G** (4 notes in total)
Keep the sustain pedal down throughout

C



Now move the whole pattern TWO notes left based on the chord of Am

Am



Then two notes left again to F

F

Then one note right again to G

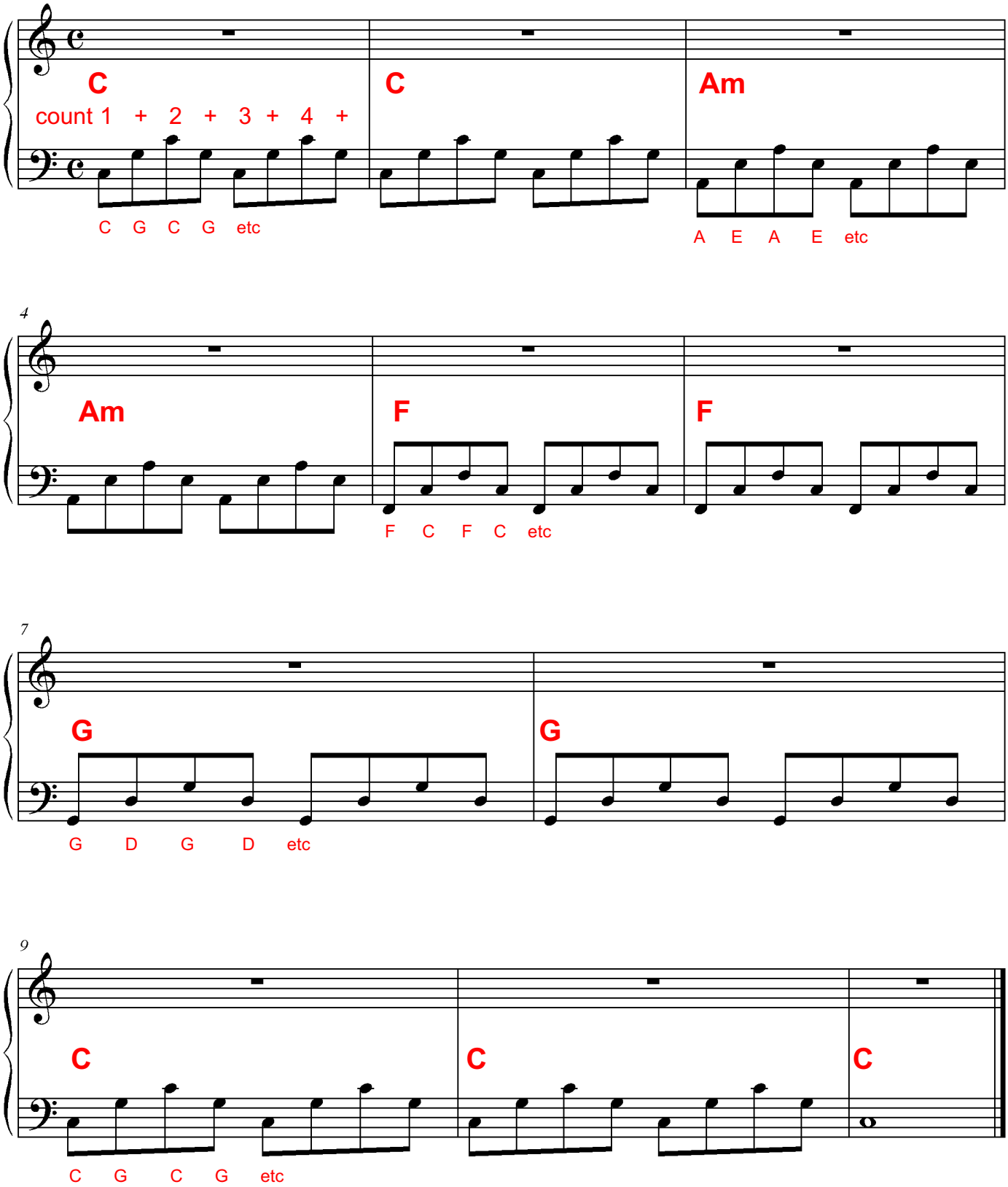
G

(Keep the sustain pedal down through each sequence
Lift it and replace it BETWEEN chord changes)

BALLAD STYLE

EXERCISE 1

Left hand plays 8 half beats per bar



TAKE NOTE!

At this stage you can either read on
and learn to IMPROVISE
over your LEFT HAND patterns

OR

You can jump ahead to page 29
and learn how to apply the
Left Hand Rhythm
in 3 EASY STEPS
to an ACTUAL tune
(Auld Lang Sang)

You can then return to here and
learn to Improvise..

Decisions...decisions?..