

## Rob's Piano Room - Module 13 - PDF

### Right Hand Textures

#### Main points

Now that you have learned to play melodies over various accompaniments, we can now look at the idea of playing more full versions of our melodies in our right hand.

One of the simplest ways to expand the impact of your melody is to play it in octaves.

This is relatively self explanatory, but there are a few things to discuss. You will have to move your hand between each melody note, likely playing fingers 1 and 5 for each note. (It can be nice for your hand to alternate between 1 and 5, and 1 and 4 especially when moving between white and black notes - the black notes can take 1 and 4)

Remember to bring out the top note of your melody

When you are playing in octaves but have quicker passages, it is very much possible to play the quicker passages as single notes and return to octaves when it is practical.

An even thicker sound is achieved by filling in notes within your octave. You can fill in 1,2, or sometimes even 3 notes between the outer shell of your octave melody notes. Always fill in with notes of the chord you are on, even if your melody note is a colour note. This can take some practice, especially when you are playing music with quick changes of chord, as the 'filler' notes will need to change as the chords change. As above, you may drop to octaves or even single notes for quicker passages.

It is also possible to play in this way without the bottom octave note, essentially resulting in playing in triads. This is nice for when you want full harmony, but might not want the full drama of the doubled octave.

The last texture we will look at is playing in thirds and sixths. You can begin practicing this by simply practicing your scales in thirds and sixths in the right hand. It is nice to switch up whether you are playing a third or sixth below the melody note as you go. You can play whichever of these as you like as you are moving around, but when you land on a long note, you will want one or the other, so the added note fits with the chord. For lower neighbours, you can play a semitone below for both notes.

#### Exercise

Look at the examples below. Find your own melodic fragments, and work through in a similar way. Again, remember you do not have to do all of these at once, you can add them gradually as makes sense for you

