

CHORD PYRAMIDS

This is a simple yet effective type of accompaniment which can be used with most ballads (slow expressive tunes, often played with a rather flexible tempo).

Play the notes of the chord one by one with your left hand, holding each note down until the chord pyramid is formed. Observe the ties carefully.

SMILE

Words: John Turner & Geoffrey Parsons. Music: Charles Chaplin

Rubato

F

new hand position

Smile tho' your heart is ach - ing, smile ev - en tho' it's break - ing,

p

chord pyramid

chord pyramid

tuck thumb under 2nd finger

A^b°

Gm

D7

when there are clouds in the sky you'll get by, if you

mf *mp*

tuck thumb under 2nd finger

Gm

Gm-5

smile thro' your fear and sor - row, Smile and may - be to - mor - row

chord pyramid

chord pyramid

The musical score is written for piano in G major (one sharp). It features a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The left hand uses a 'chord pyramid' technique, where notes are played sequentially and held down to form a chord. Fingerings are indicated by numbers 1-5. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The tempo is marked 'Rubato'. Chord symbols above the staff include F, A^b° (F# minor), Gm (G minor), D7, Gm, and Gm-5 (G minor pentatonic). A 'new hand position' is indicated for the second measure. 'Tuck thumb under 2nd finger' instructions are present for the A^b° and D7 chords. The score is divided into three systems, each with a 'chord pyramid' label under the first measure of the system.

new hand position new hand position

you'll see the sun come shin-ing thro' for you. Light up your
cresc. *mf* *p*

face with glad-ness, hide ev-'ry trace of sad-ness, Al-tho' a

tear may be ev-er so near, that's the time you must
mf *mp*

keep on try-ing, Smile what's the use of cry-ing, you'll find that
cresc.

life is still worth-while, if you just smile.
mf rit.

***Shift Technique.** Sometimes necessary for good legato playing. Play F with 3rd finger then shift to 5th finger without releasing the note. The 3rd finger is now ready for use again in the next phrase.