

MAIN POINTS ABOUT WRITING FOR PIANO

- Piano has over seven octaves in total range. Try to use more than the middle two octaves when composing for the instrument.
- Don't make chord spreads (that is, from pinkie to thumb) greater than an octave in chords and don't make leaps greater than an octave from one note to the next.
- Balance the use of the right and left hands so both have something worthwhile to contribute to the piece. Make sure both melody and harmony are interesting and varied to hold the listener's interest.
- Make sure the melody balances with the bass line. Keep in mind that a well-written bass line is not just the foundation of the harmony, but also forms a melodic counterpoint to the right hand's material.
- Balance horizontal and vertical, lines and chords so that one aspect (melody or harmony) doesn't completely dominate the piece.