



Should Keyboard Accompaniment (KA) Skills be a Compulsory Subject Given Marks at ALL Grade Levels?

KA is an advantage for teachers:

When students want to play a song they like, we can say: “The past x years you have provided accompaniment routinely - play your chosen song(s) for me with several accompaniments & embellishments.”

The problem for KA is:

when an examination student asks: “Are there marks for creating accompaniment for a melody at my exam?” If the answer is ‘no’, KA will most likely go to a **back burner** and that’s it for the best hearing years.

Something needs to be done if students are to be comfortable performing/teaching ‘Creative Accompaniment.’

During my teaching years,

I noticed a stigma attached to teaching music that could be considered main-stream *or* basic. Maybe it is seen as an insult to ‘master works’ *or* its teacher apprehension (subject was not included in formal training).

There are many **benefits of KA - at the keyboard** (p iii KA Basics Series). To sum them up:

KA can give students a lifetime of satisfaction exploring their creative skills. Continually applying accompaniments to a wide variety of melodies, students not only learn to anticipate chord changes fast, they acquire a repertoire of chords, chord variations, styles, rhythms, embellishments & progressions - all pressuring the brain to retain their name & their sound.

For Teachers, the **important features** of the **KA Basics Series** are:

- 1. Progresses equally with sight-reading & technical abilities**
- 2. Written as a self-study and therefore requires minimal lesson time.** Simply assigning 2 *or* 3 new melodies at the beginning of each lesson (*never time at the end*), students’ **hearing skills are targeted during their practising** - in the same way routine practise targets sight-reading, technical and almost any other skill.



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Although students **KA skills**, in the QuenMar program, **progress from 2-Chord Basics to include advanced jazz chords/progressions**, the material for each individual grade level cannot be separated until examination institutions outline the requirements!

PLEASE, any thoughts from piano teachers on this subject would be much appreciated:

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