

Creative Strategies for the Worship Pianist

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Playing Well with Others

Creative Approaches to Hymn Playing

- Go beyond playing the 4 parts in the hymnal

Fairest Lord Jesus

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Fairest Lord Jesus" in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves: a treble staff and a bass staff. The treble staff contains the melody with lyrics underneath. The bass staff contains a simple accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: F, Gm C F, Dm D7 Gm C F. The lyrics are as follows:

1. Fair - est Lord	Je - sus!	Rul - er of all	na - ture!
2. Fair are the	mead - ows;	Fair - er still the	wood - lands,
3. Fair is the	sun - shine,	Fair - er still the	moon - light,
4. Beau - ti - ful	Sav - iour!	Lord of all the	na - tions!

- basic steps:

- further developments:

[Church](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001.

- Leisch, Barry. *The New Worship Keyboardist*.
- Livingston, Hugh S. [The Church Pianist's Companion](#). Dayton, OH: Lorenz Publishing Co.
- Neuenschwander, Evonne. *Creative Hymn Playing*, Books 1-3.
- Smith, Gail. [Complete Book of Modulations for the Pianist](#). Pacific, MO: Mel Bay.
- Smith, Gail. [Complete Improvisation, Fills & Chord Progression Book](#). Pacific, MO: Mel Bay.
- Smith, Gail. [You Can Teach Yourself Gospel Piano](#). Book & CD. Pacific, MO: Mel Bay.
- Smither, David. [Rules for Evangelistic Improvisation](#). Broadman & Holman, 1978.
- Sprunger, Ron. [Want to Play by Ear? A Step-by-step Approach](#). Mansfield, OH: Book Masters, Inc., 1998.
- Young, Fran Toney. [Improvising on Christian Music](#). Self-published

- Zachary, Mike. [Hymn Playing Step-by-Step](#). Santa Clara, CA: North Valley Publications, 2000.

- Descants

- hymndescants.org
- [Hymn Descants Database](#), Concordia University, Irvine

The page contains ten sets of empty musical staves, each consisting of five horizontal lines. These staves are provided for the user to practice writing descants based on the resources listed above.

