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CHAPTER 2

COMBINING MELODY AND HARMONY

LESSON 1: RECOGNIZING CHORD TONES

A chord-melody arrangement allows you to play the melody with chords. Usually the melody will be the highest note in the chord, and the tones underneath produce the harmony. Not every note in an arrangement needs to be harmonized. Some players lean toward heavy harmonization, and others prefer a more sparse approach. Ultimately, it is a matter of personal taste.

One of the first skills that needs to be developed is the ability to recognize chord tones in a melody. In Examples 1, 2 and 3, the melody notes that are also part of the accompanying chord are highlighted.

● = chord tone

1 Track 2.1

2 Track 2.2

3 Track 2.3

Obviously, the better you know your chord formulas and arpeggios, the easier it will be to recognize chord tones. The next step is to find chord voicings that have the melody notes on top. Here are some possible harmonizations for Examples 1, 2 and 3.

Harmonizations for Example 1

4 Track 3.1

5 Track 3.2