



Arrangement Ideas for Yamaha Clavinova Festival Participants

To prepare your students for the Yamaha Clavinova Festival, here are a few ideas that may help you understand some of the many exciting features the CVP Series Clavinovas have to offer. The spirit of the Festival is “Enriching Lives Through Music Participation.” This event is designed to be **fun**, and to challenge your students to create, and do something a little different.

The Yamaha CVP Clavinova has many exciting features that we would like to introduce you to. With many different orchestral voices and effects available, the possibilities are endless. Be creative, and try something fun and exciting! You will enjoy the diversion, and so will your students!



- For an exciting variation to a piano voice, try combining the piano sound with some strings, or vocal sounds. Consider changing “registrations” for the different sections of the song. “Registrations” can be saved in the Clavinova in the “registration memory” section. The Clavinova has several banks of registrations available; so many combinations are possible if desired. If the selection is too challenging to change registrations during performance, the left pedal can be assigned to change the registration incrementally. This is a very handy feature! Save these registrations to a disk, so that once you have your setting refined, you don’t have to go through the procedure again when you want to play your selection.
 - **Procedure:** *It’s very similar to “locking” your favorite radio station in the memory button of your car.* Set-up the Clavinova with the desired settings, press and hold the “registration” button while selecting which memory you wish to save your setting to.
- Try having your students add a very basic track in the sequencer (recording feature on the Clavinova). It is often very tasteful to add a basic bass line, a simple counter melody, or even a basic percussion part. For a bass line, you might consider adding a root-fifth pattern to a song. This will give you a great opportunity to discuss the harmony changes with your students and have them identify where the chord changes take place. For a counter melody string line, you may also want to discuss the harmonic outline of the music. Automatic rhythms can also be used and can really add excitement to a keyboard performance.
 - When using an automatic accompaniment pattern, use as many variations as you like, similar to what you might hear in a live band situation. Each automatic accompaniment pattern has 4 variations - A, B, C and D. “A” is the more simplistic band, and “D” is the most complex. There are also 3 variations of introductions and endings. For example, you may wish to start with a simple rhythm for the first section of the song. For the repeat, consider using a different variation of the rhythm. Try mixing and matching throughout the arrangement. These variations can be stored in the “registration memory” section of the Clavinova. For even more varied background, you can use the “mixer” feature to adjust the volume of the individual parts of the automatic accompaniment section. Each automatic pattern consists of 5 musical parts called *drums*, *bass*, *chord*, *phrase* and *pad*. The volume of each of these parts can be adjusted to create further variations of each rhythm. Again, these volumes can be stored in the “registration memory” section of the Clavinova, and then stored to a disk for repeated use.
- Consider trying to emulate an arrangement done by a band or orchestra. The CVP Clavinova can record in up to 16 musical tracks, so some pretty elaborate arrangements can be made.

When working on a project like this, it can be a great time to discuss orchestration with your students. Be sure to show them that the musical instruments of the orchestra have ranges. You can introduce them to many exciting styles of arranging for these different instruments.

- Have students perform with commercially prepared software. This is a great opportunity for beginning students to sound wonderful, while having to count at the same time! Double benefit. Most students will love to play with a prepared background disk to their lesson books. Yamaha has lots of prepared software available for all levels of performers. Try out the StarLIGHTS Series books for beginners! Also, www.yamahamusicsoft.com, has plenty of MIDI software available for purchase including, StarLIGHTS, CueTIME, DISKOrchestra, You are the Artist, and more. [Click here to check out the various titles.](#)
- Let students play duets using fun and exciting sounds. By using the split keyboard feature the Clavinova has to offer, along with octave placement capabilities, the possibilities are endless.

Have fun, experiment, be creative. This is a wonderful opportunity to give your students confidence, and to have a wonderful, positive experience sharing their music!