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Recording Chord Sequences to Use for Song Accompaniments for the Clavinova CVP300 Series

Creating an accompaniment for a simple song can add lots of excitement and interest, as well as provide a great metronome for the student to perform with. Here is a list of steps needed to help make a fun, interesting accompaniment.

All styles or rhythms have four variations called Main A, Main B, Main C and Main D. These variations become more complex as you move up the alphabet. Main A could be considered a beginning band, while Main D would be considered the advanced band. Any variation can be used with any section of a song to provide great interest.

1. Identify the song's form. Is it ABA? ABA Coda? Mark the sections on the music in pencil. You will use a different variation of the automatic styles for each section; this creates the realism and interest.
2. Do a harmonic analysis of the song. This exercise may be fun to do with your student. Mark in the chord changes on the music in pencil.

Now you are ready to begin recording your accompaniment on the CVP300 Series.

1. Select the STYLE button. The screen will show folders of different styles, or musical genres, of automatic accompaniments available.
2. Select a category (folder) from the screen. The list of all the automatic accompaniments available for the selected category will now show in the display screen. Listen to a few patterns to select the one you wish to use. Once you have selected the pattern, double click on your selection to return to the Main screen, or press the EXIT button.
3. In the Song section of the Clavinova, press the REC and STOP buttons at the same time to tell the Clavinova you are ready to record a "New Song".

If there is something left in the Clavinova's memory that hasn't been saved, the screen will show you message that says "Song changed saved? Yes or No"; you decide if the data needs to be saved.

4. Select the variation of rhythm you wish to use by pressing one of the buttons labeled Main A, Main B, etc. If you are using the automatic introduction, press the INTRO button in the style section. Have SYNC START on; this will allow the CVP to begin playing when you strike the first chord below the split point. Be sure the ACCMP button is on (lit up) to get the entire band. If this button is not selected, you will record only drums.

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Recording Chord Sequences to Use for Song Accompaniments for the Clavinova CVP300 Series (Continued)

5. Press the red REC button.

If you wish to add dynamic changes to your accompaniment, press the small balance button to the left of the screen. Touch either the up or down arrow under the slider that says Style-button #2. Now the wheel to the right of the screen is active and will record your dynamic changes as you move the wheel during your recording.

6. Play the chord of the key that the song is in to start recording the automatic introduction.
7. Play the chords of the song, changing to different variations of the rhythm for the different sections of the song.
8. When finished, press the ENDING button and the Clavinova will end the song with a terrific automatic flourish.
9. In the Song section, press STOP. This will stop the recording and automatically rewind the song to the beginning. To hear your work, press the PLAY button in the Song section.
10. If you're satisfied with your work, save it to the User drive, memory card or floppy disk.

Here's an exercise for the chord changes to "Marianne"

1. From the Styles, select Latin, and then select Big Band Mambo. Press EXIT.
2. Press REC and STOP together to get a "New Song."
3. Be sure the ACCMP button is on, then press REC.
4. Select Main A. Be sure Sync Start is on. Turn on any Intro button.
5. Play a C chord for the intro. After the intro is finished, play the following:
C.../C.../G7... /G7.../G7.../G7.../C..
Press Main B .. / C.../C.../G7.../ G7.../G7.../G7.../C.../C.../
Press ENDING.
6. Press STOP after the ending has finished.
7. To hear your work, press PLAY in the Song section.