Melodies to Play By Ear and Harmonize

Familiar melodies to play by ear:

What to tell the student:
1. **Where to begin.** Example: “Start with finger 3 on Middle C.”
2. **The first interval.** Example: “The first interval is a fourth.”
3. **Which keys they will use to play the melody.** Example: “You will be using the notes A, B, and C” or “You will be playing in the key of F major.”
4. **Which chords they will use to harmonize the melody.** Example: “You will be using the chords I and V7” or “C and G7.”

Songs that can be played entirely on the black keys:
- Hot Cross Buns (start on Bb)
- Old MacDonald Had a Farm (F#)
- Mary Had a Little Lamb (Bb)

Songs that stay within the five-finger position:
- When the Saints Go Marching In
- Ode to Joy

Songs that extend out of the five-finger position:
- Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star
- Are You Sleeping

Songs that utilize the entire scale:
- Away in a Manger
- Joy to the World
- Deck the Halls

Songs that utilize the entire scale:
- The Farmer in the Dell (C#)
- Amazing Grace (C#)

Familiar melodies to harmonize:

What to tell the student:
1. **Which key they will be playing in.** Example: “You will be playing in the key of F major.”
2. **Which chords they will use to harmonize the melody.** Example: “You will be using the chords I and V7” or “C and G7.”
3. **Which accompaniment style they will use in the LH.** Examples: roots of chords only, blocked chords, broken chords, waltz bass, or Alberti bass.

Songs using tonic and dominant:
- Clementine
- London Bridge
- Long, Long Ago
- Shoo Fly, Don’t Bother Me

Songs using tonic, dominant, and subdominant:
- Amazing Grace
- Camptown Races
- Oh! Suzanna

Songs using tonic, dominant, subdominant, and secondary dominant:
- Home on the Range
- Jingle Bells

Songs using tonic, dominant, subdominant, and secondary dominant:
- Skip to My Lou
- Itsy Bitsy Spider
- Merrily We Roll Along
- The Farmer in the Dell

Songs using tonic, dominant, subdominant, and secondary dominant:
- Bingo
- When the Saints Go Marching In

Songs using tonic, dominant, subdominant, and secondary dominant:
- Muffin Man
- My Bonnie

Sources: