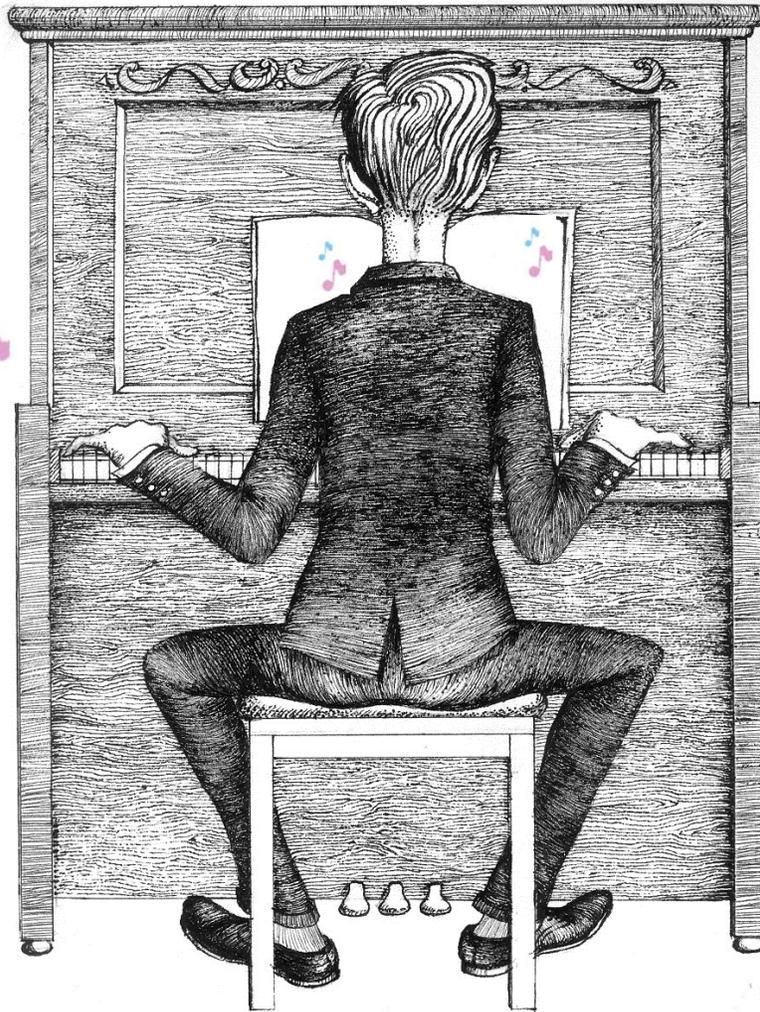


**LEARN TO PLAY**

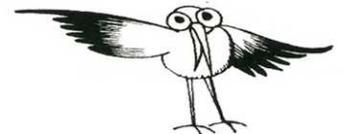
# SIX HYMNS IN SIX DAY S



## **Day Seven**

**Variations for the Left Hand  
Six Variations for the Left Hand  
How to Play Prelude/Postlude Music  
How to Accompany Soloists  
How to be More Creative  
Hymns (from the Web)**

*Here's what you  
will learn today!*





## Variations for the Left Hand

You should now be fairly comfortable with playing the chords in the **left hand**.

**Now comes the fun and creative part of music** 😊

Today we will explore different ways of playing the left hand chords and different simple arrangements for playing the hymns for prelude and postlude music.

Lets start off by looking at the **left hand**.

We have been just playing **simple chords** or just **single notes** in the left hand to make this as **easy** as possible.

We have learned how to play the chords in the **Root Positions** and the **Easy Positions**.

There are some additional very **simple** and **easy** things you can do that will make the music sound even better!!

These **new SIX Variations** will give you additional 'tools' for your 'music tool box' when you are playing the music.

Try each variation on the same hymn and see which ones you like best.

Let's learn  
the **SIX**  
variations !!





## Six Variations

### Variation #1: - Rolling the Chords

Instead of playing the notes in the chords all at one time ... play the **bottom note** first, then the **middle one**, and then the **top one**. This is called 'rolling' the chords. Try experimenting by doing this slowing and then more quickly.

### Variation #2: - Bottom Note and then Top Two Notes

In hymns in **3/4 time**, play the **bottom note on COUNT ONE** and the **other two notes on COUNTS TWO and THREE**. Hold the bottom note down as you are playing the other two notes. In **4/4 time**, play the bottom note on the **COUNT ONE** ... and the other two notes on **COUNT THREE**.

### Variation #3: - Play OCTAVES in the Left Hand

Rather than playing the chords, just play the **bottom note of the chord with your thumb and use your little finger to play the note which is an octave lower**. This provides more depth in the sound of the music. (Note: your hand may not be large enough to do this.)

### Variation #4 - Play OCTAVES then the chord

As in option #3, play an octave on **BEAT ONE**, and then the chord on the other beats.

### Variation #5 - Alternate playing notes

Play the bottom note, then top note, then middle note, then top note ... then repeat the sequence. This works great for hymns written in **4/4 time**.

### Variation #6 - Chords on every beat

Some hymns have a '**strong beat**' to them ... kind of like marching songs. For these types of hymns you can play the chord **on each count** ... to give the feeling of a drum beat. Sometimes this is best used on the last verse of a hymn to have the music build to a climax. '**Onward Christian Soldiers**' would be a good example of this.



Make sure you  
**TREAT** yourself  
when you are done  
today !!



## How to Play Prelude and Postlude Music

Before a meeting begins, the **prelude music** can set a good feeling for the meeting. The following are a few suggestions that I have used over the years to make the prelude and postlude music most effective.

### **Suggestion #1 - Play the hymns softly and slowing**

Play the hymn slowing, softly and include pauses at different places. This will help the congregation to ponder the music and receive the spirit.



### **Suggestion #2 - Play the hymns that will be sung in the meeting**

By playing these hymns, it **embeds** into the minds and hearts of the congregation the hymns and their meanings into their hearts. It prepares them for when they will be singing. It is kind of like an **'overture'** that is done in plays and in operas. It is a preview of what is to come. ***This is also an excellent way to also practice the hymn slowing before you have to play it with the congregation singing.***



### **Suggestion #3 - Play the hymn in different octaves**

Play the hymn at its normal position ... then move both hands **an octave higher** and play it again ... this time playing it **very softly and lightly**. Now to be really creative, leave your left hand where it is and play the melody an octave below it. This means you have to cross your right hand and arm over your left one. **This provides for a great effect !!**

### **Suggestion #4 - Repeat phrases an octave higher**

A musical phrase (a couple of measures) is kind of like a sentence ... play the phrase ... then play the same phrase an octave higher ... then come back to the original hand positions.

**Suggestion #5 – Start an octave higher, then go lower, then return higher**

Start playing the hymn very softly an **octave or two octaves higher**. Play it slowing and quietly ... then start to **build the volume** and begin to play in the normal place ...give it a little more emphasis ... then reduce the volume and tempo and finish by playing an octave higher.

**Suggestion #6 – Utilize the keyboard ability to change keys**

Some organs and sythisizers have the ability to **change the KEY** that you are playing in. Play the hymn in the normal KEY and then move the knob to change the KEY ... you will be playing the same notes but the sound will be in either a higher or lower key.

**Suggestion #7 – Play just the melody**

**Melodies** are very powerful! Play just the melody by itself for a couple of lines and then add the left hand.

**How to Accompany Soloists**

Many times you may be asked to play for someone as they sing or play a musical instrument.

I find it very helpful **NOT to play the melody but just the chords**. You can play the chords in both hands ... or just part of the chords by each hand.

This allows the other musician to speed up or slow down while they are playing the **melody**. Your introduction could include the melody ... but once they start singing just use the chord varations options as explained above.





## How to Become More Creative

**M**usic is not just playing the notes on the page ... **it is getting a little of yourself spread out all over the keyboards which reflects your feelings and thoughts and emotions.**

BUT ... how do I learn how to do this???

**I** have found that one of the best ways is to **practice late at night .... Turn off all the lights** ... and just sit down and play ... don't worry about making any mistakes ... **just FEEL the music** ... play the music **soft and lovingly** .. then play it **hard and fast** as if you were mad ... then pretend it is a love song ... do you catch the vision??

**S**tart forgetting about the notes and keys ... **close your eyes** and let your heart teach you how to play. This is a great way too for learning where the notes are on the keyboard so that it becomes just muscle memory.



**Whatever you do ... have fun with it .. and enjoy it !!!**

## Hymns

**T**he church's web site has all the hymns recorded on it. Get out your music and play along with it ... **HOWEVER .. don't play on the piano** ... pretend you are playing but use the kitchen table, your lap, or close the cover over the keyboard and play on it.

**YOU WILL NEVER HIT A WRONG NOTE!!**

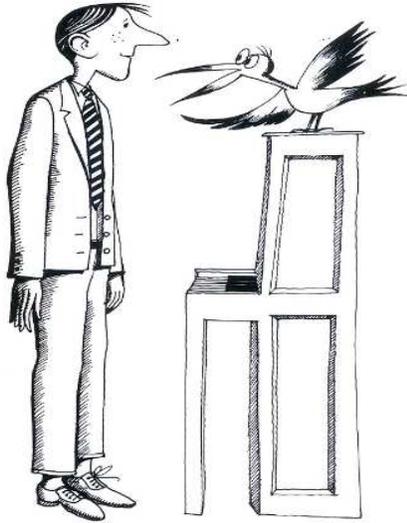
This will help you get the right rhythm for the hymn.

**H**ere is the web link: <http://www.lds.org/music/text/hymns>

**There are no new hymns today ....**

just go back over **ALL** the hymns you have already learned  
and try to apply some of the **suggestions** we have gone over.





# "Final Thoughts"



## Congratulations!!!!

You have finished **WEEK TWO !!**

Music is a gift from God. He gives us talents in order that we may share them with others. **Don't ever give up!** It is never too late to learn! The Lord will bless and keep you as you show your faith in this great work!!

I would love to hear from you on how you are doing ... and what improvements / suggestions you might have. Please email me at **sixhymns@hotmail.com**

Now that you completed **Week Two**, it is important to continue to practice **each day!!** Make sure you review each hymn you have learned. Try to learn a new hymn each day. You might even try to **MEMORIZE** them !!!

Finally ... try **teaching** this course to others ... it will help you **learn faster** and it will bless the lives of many others. There will be also **separate instructional videos** for each hymn where I will **personally teach** you how to **play each one !!**

There are over additional **130+ hymns** and **Children Songbook songs** available on my web site that are specially arranged in this style ([www.GrandpaDave.com](http://www.GrandpaDave.com)).

There are **four (4) different versions** you can select from:

- In **COLOR** with the **note names** inside the notes
- In **COLOR** with just the **plain notes**
- In **BLACK/WHITE** with the **note names** inside notes
- In **BLACK/WHITE** with just the **plain notes**

And remember ...

**"It's Easy !!!"**

