

# Accompanying Made Simple

By Shelly Hamilton

*(My comments in italics)*

## Purpose:

1. To enhance the vocalist by:
  - a. supporting, but not getting in the way
  - b. being a follower (*keep rhythm going; forward motion especially through held notes*)
2. To enhance the message by:
  - a. word painting the lyrics with style
  - b. word painting the lyrics with chord patterns

## Process:

- a. follow the chords indicated by the song's 4-part writing
- b. figure out the chords by using your ear
- c. plan an outline of the accompaniment and a mood setting introduction
- d. choose appropriate accompanying patterns
- e. determine if a transposition would be beneficial

## Particulars:

- a. let the singer take pick-up notes by himself (*use suspended chord at end of intro.*)
- b. seldom play the melody
- c. set a comfortable tempo for the singer, appropriate to the song
- d. when the singer has a lot of motion, stay simple—when the singer is stationary—provide motion

## Patterns:

- a. blocked chords
- b. arpeggiated and rolled chords
- c. horn fifths
- d. pedal tone octaves—LH and RH
- e. scales
- f. arpeggios