

2013 SEPTEMBER 19. MIKE NOLE LESSON NOTES

CELLO-PIANO PIECE BASED ON CHRISTMAS CAROL "WHO IS THIS, SO WEAK AND HELPLESS" IN G MINOR

Theme and variation format.

Possibilities:

1. Play the original. Cello plays the melody, piano plays the rest of the voices.
2. Gradually take some of the familiar elements: Play melody as is, but change the harmonies underneath based on the unmodified melody notes (example of chromatic bass line)
3. Cello and piano duet. Cello could play a different melody, piano could play original melody with familiar harmonization
4. Cello and piano duet. Cello could play a different melody, piano could play original melody but using the unfamiliar harmonization
5. Cello and piano duet. Cello could play the original melody, piano could play a variation using the unfamiliar harmonization
6. Cello and piano duet. Cello and piano both play variation melodies, based on unfamiliar harmonization, but at least one of the instruments keeps the counting exactly as the original for a source of familiarity
7. At the end it could return to the familiar harmony, this time, reverse the roles: the piano could play the melody and the cello could play another line, bass, tenor, alto, from the original arrangement.