

## Book 5: Ballad Style

### **Key Focus:**

Lefthand accompaniment

Righthand melody

Expressive playing

### **Practice Exercise:**

Ballad Composition Drill: Compose a 4bar emotional ballad in C

LH: Use broken chord pattern (e.g., C-G-C-E)

RH: Create a flowing melody using C major scale notes (C-D-E-F-G-A-B)

Goal: Make it lyrical and emotionally expressive

Variation:

Try composing in 6/8 time with a gentle swing feel. Use arpeggiated LH patterns and sustained RH notes.

### **Bonus Tip:**

Improvise a righthand melody over I-vi-IV-V in C:

C – Am – F – G

RH: Focus on simple motifs (e.g., E-G-A or G-F-E)

LH: Play slow, steady arpeggios or broken chords

Think "storytelling" with your phrasing

### **Recommended Listening:**

"Let It Be" by The Beatles

"Someone Like You" by Adele

"River Flows in You" by Yiruma

These songs use expressive phrasing, simple chord progressions, and memorable melodies—hallmarks of the ballad style.

### **Supplemental Techniques:**

Pedaling: Use damper pedal to sustain tones and connect phrases

Chord Voicings: Explore root position and inversions for smoother transitions

Melody Writing: Keep melodies stepwise, and resolve leaps gently

Rubato: Add expressive timing—slight delays and accelerations

### **Learning Strategy:**


Record your ballads and listen back


Play ballads by ear to internalize structure


Study vocal phrasing—imitate singing on the piano

Practice one hand at a time to focus on shaping tone and phrasing

### **Additional Inspiration**

 Learn how to shape ballad melodies and express emotion

 Watch beginner improvisation demos online

 Want a guided stepbystep ballad course with PDF + video?

 **[Start the Ballad Style Module in Pianoforall →](#)**

### **Did You Know?**

Most iconic ballads use just 4 chords. Mastering these patterns empowers you to write melodies that tug at the heart.

 **Ready to create ballads that move people?**

 **[Learn the full Ballad Style method with Pianoforall →](#)**