

Chick Corea Keyboard Workshop

Methods of Composition, Improvisation, and Practice

A booklet to accompany the video

Written by CHICK COREA

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Additional text and analyses by John Novello, author of
"The Contemporary Keyboardist."

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PREFACE

What follows is study material for use in conjunction with "Keyboard Workshop," a video which Chick made for DCI. It is primarily written by Chick, with some harmonic analyses by John Novello which should be extremely helpful to the advanced player. The video and booklet have much information which will be understood by musicians at every level of experience. If there are aspects that are beyond your grasp at this point, you are sure to understand more as you develop as a player.

A suggestion for finding your place on the tape when you wish to go back to a particular section: set your VCR counter to zero when you begin viewing the video. As you get to each section, make a note in the booklet as to the corresponding number on the counter. Then when you want to review a particular spot, finding it will be easy.

In the video, Chick is shown composing and arranging a song entitled "Long Fall" (part of which is reprinted in this booklet, in Chick's own handwriting). It may be of interest to note that he did not prepare this tune in advance of the taping—what is seen on the video is Chick's actual writing process.

—The Producers.

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PHILOSOPHY OF STUDY

Gradient: a gradual approach to something, taken step by step, level by level, each step or level being, of itself, easily surmountable—so that finally, quite complicated and difficult activities can be achieved with relative ease.

Win: intending to do something and doing it, or intending *not* to do something and *not* doing it.

Learning to give oneself "wins" by using and taking on the correct gradient is important. If the gradient is too steep, losses and failure result; if too easy, boredom and no advancement. So—

- 1) DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO.
- 2) ACHIEVE IT, by selecting and using the correct gradient—the one that will produce the win and feeling of success.

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