

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to *Rock Keyboard*. If you've ever wanted to play keyboard in a rock band, but weren't sure what to play or how, then you've come to the right place. Whatever your playing level—beginning, intermediate, or advanced—you'll find something here that meets your needs.

In rock, as in many styles of music, a keyboardist is usually either *comping* (e.g., playing chords or other accompaniment behind a vocalist) or *soloing* (playing licks, riffs, fills, etc.). This book gives you ideas for both.

Comping: Each chapter in this book covers a different style of rock. In the first section of every chapter, we'll focus on harmony, chord voicings, bass lines, and other aspects of comping in that style. This is the stuff you need to know in a band situation. What does your right hand play? How about your left hand? What about the rhythms? As a keyboardist, your parts need to sound great on their own but also fit into the groove with the rest of the band.

Soloing: When you're not comping, you're probably soloing—that is, playing a lick or riff that “fills in” or creates a recognizable “hook” in the song. You might also be improvising over a song section. In the “soloing” section of each chapter, we'll cover ideas for creating your own licks and riffs and for improvising with scales and chords.

Rock Keyboards is chock full of authentic rock keyboard parts. Learn them all, and you'll be well on your way to playing your first (or next) gig. Most parts are two-handed but can be played one-handed (treble clef only) if a player prefers. (The bass parts typically double what a bassist would play.) However, it's highly recommended that you practice both hands: this prepares you for playing solo or in a group without a bassist, and improves both your understanding of the music and your coordination as a keyboardist. Also, once you're somewhat comfortable playing these tracks, try transposing them to different keys. Most progressions and licks can be used in many different scenarios.

Rock on!

—Scott Miller

About the CD

Each example in this book is performed on the accompanying CD. Just listen for the count-off, then join in. The CD features a full band—keyboard, guitar, bass, and drums—so you can hear how your parts fit in with the total groove.

Guitar: Paul Mayasich

Bass: John Iden

Drums: Mark O'Day

Keyboards: Scott Miller

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