

## **NOTES FROM GEORGE WINSTON**

**These are exact transcriptions of 20 songs from my albums, with chord labels included. One should feel free to interpret and change them however they want—I do that with all songs that I play. (These transcribed versions are just the way the songs were played on the days that I recorded them). I learn music by ear, and I use chords and music theory to learn and remember music (see facing page).**

**One of the reasons I play the piano is that I prefer the quality of the sustain that the piano has over strings or organ, etc. I often use the sustain pedal for extended time periods, so sometimes some of the notes will sound like they are struck—but what is actually happening is that when the pedal is held down for awhile, the overtones will sometimes swell and sound like a softly struck note. In this book these types of sustained notes are indicated with a tie. You could strike those notes if you prefer to.**

**The other reason I play the piano is because it has power and volume, and because it is possible to play a lot of songs with multiple parts as solo instrumentals, which is my temperament as a musician. I mainly think of the piano as if it is an Afro-American tuned drum.**

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# NOTES

**WHETHER YOU LEARN music by ear or from the written page, I suggest learning chords (any combination of three notes or more played together) and music theory (how chords are used in the different music traditions). Any piece of written music could be analyzed in terms of its chord structures, and that can be an aid in memorization. The individual notes are like the letters in the alphabet, and chords are like words. The Major and minor chords are the building blocks for all other chords. Here is a suggested way to learn chords:**

- 1. First learn the Major chords, which have the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of the Major scale of a key.**
- 2. Then learn the minor chords, which have the 3rd lowered a half step (down one note).**
- 3. The next step would be to learn the dominant 7th chords, the minor 7th chords, and the Major 7th chords.**
- 4. Then learn the 9th chords (adding the 9th note with those three types of 7th chords mentioned just above in #3).**
- 5. Then learn the diminished chords (and the diminished 7th chords), and the augmented chords.**
- 6. Then learn the Major 6th and the minor 6th chords.**
- 7. And then, if it is an area one is interested in, learn the jazz chords—13th chords, flat 9th chords, augmented 9th chords, flat 5 chords, 11th chords, and more; and also scales and modes.**

**Again, any combination of three notes or more can be called a chord (and actually any chord could be interpreted in twelve different ways,**