

THE DVD EDUCATION ILLUSION:

There is an extremely large market of websites that are selling DVDs as a method of instruction for learning to play black gospel piano. These DVDs tend to feature an accomplished musician as the “instructor.”

The musicians on these DVDs play extremely well. The thought is that since this individual can play very well, they can share their knowledge with you, and that you will learn how to play like them.

These DVDs tend to have very attractive sounding titles that contain such words as:

- 1) Master Class**
- 2) Secrets Revealed**
- 3) Instructional DVD**

These DVDs also tend to be advertised with shorts video clips showing the musician playing. These video clips, in combination with the DVD title, and your desire to play like them are usually enough to lure you into making the purchase.

If you have not yet had the experience to receive or use one of the DVDs, there are a few things that you need to know. The content of these DVDs all seem to follow the same theme.

- 1) The first thing is that you will get a DVD containing video of the musician playing songs. While they are playing, the camera will be pointed at the keyboard.

This single issue alone deserves much discussion, think about what you just purchased; at first glance all seems well;

- a) You are going to get a close-up view of what this musician is playing.
- b) You are going to get to see it all.
- c) Nothing will be hidden.

THE DVD EDUCATION REALITY:

But in reality that is all that you are getting; Just a video of someone playing.

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- Just as if you had purchased a ticket to a concert.
- The only difference is that you have a good view.

The reality is you are not getting any instruction, and the sad thing about this is that you are probably unaware that you are not getting any instruction; we will talk about this more shortly.

What you are getting is a “show” of the musician showing their talents. What you will usually see on the DVD is several videos of the musician playing various songs.

There will usually be two videos of each example song.

- 1) The first video will be a video of the musician playing the song. The song is played at full speed by the musician allowing you to see the end result. The camera is pointed at the keyboard so that you can view the “performance.”
- 2) The second video is the “hook” where you think that you are getting instruction.

They usually call this video the “breakdown.”

This breakdown is a video of the musician playing the same song in “slow motion.” The musician will usually play the song for you chord-by chord, one at a time.

In fact they will usually even call out the notes in the chord note-by-note.

The funny thing about this is usually on the screen along with you watching the musician play, there is a digital representation of the keyboard on the screen that lights up all of the notes that the musician is playing as they play, and this keyboard has all of the notes labeled on the screen.

So there really is no need for the musician to call out the notes in the chord note-by-note. You can simply look at the screen and see all of the notes.

There is no need for anybody to call out the notes. We can all read. This seems like an insult to our intelligence and a big waste of time.

THE WASTE AND MONEY IN THEIR POCKET:

What better way to create a 2-3 hour DVD than to waste time calling out the notes in a song note-by-note.

A five hour DVD sounds fantastic right in the advertising right?

But most of the time is spent calling out notes! How silly!

We can all see the notes lit up on the on the digital representation of the keyboard on the screen, stop wasting time calling out the notes!

How about giving us some real instruction?

Let's take a closer look at one reason why this is not anything of instructional value and why this is the wrong educational focus for anyone trying to learn to play a keyboard instrument.

The sad thing is that you are being steered in the wrong direction and not even know it! They are failing to give you a critical piece of information that would turn the DVD into instruction. With the current content of the DVD, you are doing nothing more than engaging in an exercise in memorization.

You are essentially memorizing how they played the song, so that you can achieve the end result of playing that song exactly like them. If you play exactly like them, and they sound good, then you sound good..... You think so?

Sounds great right? Now you sound good, just like them! That is fantastic, right?
WRONG!

Think about what you just did, you engaged in a grueling exercise in memorization. What did you really learn?

You learned how good or bad your memory is.

This has nothing to do with advancing your music education!

THE ISSUES

There is a whole list of issues with what just happened in your memorizing songs and the most serious I will save for last.

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- 1) You just memorized a song (however painful that was), and now you sound good, but wait, you can only play that song. Of what value is that?
 - a) Now you have to go through that same process again to learn another song. That's crazy. You will be on this endless cycle of memorizing songs.
 - b) You have to go through the effort of finding versions of songs that have already been harmonized or chorded so that you can memorize them and "sound good."
 - c) You are essentially asking for chords. I am sure you have all been on websites and forums where people are asking for chords or posting chords for songs. Again nothing more than memorization exercises.
- 2) The songs and harmonizations that are on these DVDs and forum postings are songs selected by somebody else; they may not necessarily be the songs that you want to play. So you find yourself on this endless search of completed song harmonizations.
- 3) Another end result is that you are playing the song exactly how they played it. Why would you want to do this? Why would you want to sound exactly like somebody else? That person sounds like them, why can't you sound like you?

THE TRUTH

You may not be aware of this, but you just purchased a DVD that is only showing you the end result. That end result is that the musician on the DVD has already harmonized the song that they are playing, and they are telling you resulting chords for the song that they are playing.

There is a step that is missing that they are not sharing with you!

They are not telling how they came up with those chords!

They are not telling you where those chords came from!

They are not telling you how they turned the simple version of that song as it was originally written into the beautiful chords that they are playing.

They know how to do it!

They are keeping this information from you!

And they can probably do it on any song instantly!

What you are getting and what they are showing you on the DVD are the only end results.

They are not sharing this key piece of information with you, and that's the instruction that you need!

They have this knowledge and they are not sharing it with you. The musicians on these DVDs can already play and not telling you how they arrived at this end result.

They are simply showing you the end result.

As I indicated before, these DVDs are nothing more than a show.

These DVDs are not providing the instruction that you need to get you where the person on the DVD is

Of course they want you to keep buying DVDs.

If they told you this secret you would not need them anymore.

You need to learn to harmonize songs on your own

That is what they are doing. They are harmonizing melodies and creating beautiful chord sequences.

You would not need to purchase any DVDs ever again if you knew how to do this.

You are missing this critical instructional component that is going to put you in the position that they are in!

You probably didn't even know that this piece of information was not being shared with you. You probably didn't even know that this is the key to advancing your musicianship.

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The real goal for you is for you to be able to harmonize the songs of your choice and not rely on anybody else.

If you knew how to harmonize you would never have to rely on anybody else again.

Harmonization is where you are able to take a line of melody notes, even a simple one finger melody, and add beautiful chord changes.

THE TRADITIONAL MUSIC EDUCATION ILLUSION

There is a similar problem that exists in most traditional music education. The same problem with DVDs exists with most traditional “music lessons.” Many of you have probably been down this path. I know many people who have and the result is similar.

The issue with traditional music education starts very early in your quest to learn to play a keyboard instrument.

Take note of the following key fact:

Have you ever noticed that most people who play the keyboard very well, play with absolutely NO music in front of them?

They can play just about anything with NO music. You may have asked them well how they do that. Their response is usually the following:

They tell you that they play by ear!

And then you just leave the issue alone and just walk away and assume that they have some gift that they were born with.

The truth about this is that the phrase “play by ear” in itself is very misleading just by those words themselves. That phrase itself over the years is just one that is used to describe individuals that play without music. It has nothing to do with some gift that god has bestowed upon them allowing them to play the piano.

The proper and more appropriate phrase describing what they are doing is:

- 1) Playing without music and choosing chords that sound good to them

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The “Play by Ear” description of what they are doing is a description of the act of “Choosing chords that sound good to them.”

Yes, they are choosing chords that sound good to THEIR EAR.

Does this sound familiar to something we discussed earlier?

Yes it does.... They are harmonizing a line of melody notes choosing chords that they like.

THIS IS NOT A GIFT THAT THEY WERE BORN WITH!

Again you are not getting a full description of what they are doing. And in this case it’s not that they are hiding anything from you, it’s the fact that they probably cannot explain the process.

The reason for this is because they did not learn to play the piano by the traditional method. They learned a different way.

They learned by a method that is not formally taught but has been passed on for hundreds of years.

You have seen this many times. There is a class of people that can play the keyboard who don’t read any music.

In fact, many of them cannot read music!

Here is a bit of irony on that issue.

There are individuals that have had years and years of music lessons. Give them a sheet of music and they can play anything. But, take the music away and they cannot play a thing!

If you put that person who can read music up against the person who cannot read music, the person that cannot read music can run circles around the person who can read music and has had years of music lessons. How can that be?

Again, the person who can play without reading music learned differently. They did not learn through traditional music lessons! They took a different path.

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There are so many who play without reading music, BUT nobody is teaching this method.

This method is essentially learned in the streets, behind closed doors. No where will you find any formal instruction on this method. This method has its origins in the Black Church. You see it all the time; they play beautifully without reading music and usually can't read music.

THIS TECHNIQUE CAN BE APPLIED TO ANY TYPE OF MUSIC.

It's nothing more than harmonization.

Let's take a closer look at the traditional music education path and see where it is faulty. It usually follows this path after you find a teacher of book:

- 1) You spend a considerable amount of time learning all the different types of notes, quarter-notes, half-notes, eighth- notes, etc. You spend A LOT of time getting introduced to all these different types of notes. Think about it, dotted notes tied notes, etc. Your learning these notes is usually done in the context of a song.
- 2) So every week you learn a new song and get introduced to a new type of note. This in itself can go on for years. The music get more and more complicated and you move on to understanding more and more of the symbols on the sheet music and you may get into learning chords. Again this can continue for YEARS.
- 3) The whole focus of traditional music education is READING SHEET MUSIC. This sheet music is the end result of music that has already been harmonized. Sound familiar? Why would you want to play the song exactly how it was written on the sheet music?

We all know if you play exactly what is written in a hymn book, it is boring and uninteresting.

The musicians who are playing without sheet music don't give a crap about whether a note is a whole note or quarter note. They have no interest in playing it how it was written.

They play it how they feel it goes. They know the song already; they have a pretty good idea of the melody. There is no need to read any music.

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The person who reads without music has skipped this step!!

The person who plays without music is playing beautifully while you are still learning about notes. You are stuck in a box that you cannot get out of.

You are stuck relying on other peoples harmonizations and reading music!

STOP WASTING YEARS LEARNING ABOUT NOTES AND READING MUSIC.

LEARN HARMONIZATION

CONSIDER THIS:

If you look at the academic landscape of courses of study available, anybody can get a degree in just about anything. For example, an individual admitted to a university can choose to get a degree in Engineering, Computer Science, Bio Chemistry, or Nuclear Physics.

No prior experience or knowledge is necessary and the institution will provide you an opportunity to become an expert in a discipline of your choosing no matter how challenging or hard that area of study is.

But wait a second, the one thing anyone cannot do is get a degree in MUSIC!

Hmmm, anybody can get a degree in BIOCHEMISTRY but not music!!!

To be admitted to a music program for performance you must already be an expert on your instrument of choice!!!

They already expect you to know how to play!

So what happens in college?

They teach you the theory and how to read notes!!!!

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If you want to learn how to read music, you can learn that later.

LEARN HOW TO PLAY NOW!!!

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO THE TRADITIONAL PATH OF MUSIC EDUCATION

LEARN HOW TO HARMONIZE!

Gregory Moody and Glen Stewart met over thirty years ago and had the same music instructor from whom we both learned the system that we present to you in this course.

We both learned how to play without reading music. We learned to harmonize.

Or as it is known in the street PLAY BY EAR

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THE TRUTH ABOUT CHORDS:

The biggest hassle for most keyboard players is key transposition.

How many times have you been told that once you learn something, you must learn it in all 12 keys?

Or many there are some of you who can only play in certain keys?

GUESS WHAT?

They keyboard players who can really play well DO NOT TRANSCOPE!

Did you know it is possible to play in ANY KEY without transposing?

They do not transpose by using the method that you were taught in traditional lessons. That is just another thing to hinder your musicianship and add many years to your ability to play the keyboard well!!

The key to not transposing is in the chords!

If you are a musician who uses the simple major, minor, and 7th chords just to name a few, guess what?

YOU ARE GOING TO BE ONE OF THOSE MUSICIANS THAT TAKES YEARS TO LEARN TO PLAY.

YOU ARE GOING TO SPEND MANY HOURS LEARNING CHORDS IN EVERY KEY!

THAT'S REDICULOUS!!! THERE IS NO NEED!

Once you step up your game and start learning to harmonize and use more complex chords, transposition is a thing of the past.

Let's give you peek at what we are talking about:

THE C MAJOR CHORD:

The image shows a guitar chord diagram for C Major. At the top, a black box contains the text "C Major". To the left and right of this box are red boxes containing "[I]" and "[G]" respectively. Below this, a white box on the left contains the text "Left Hand BASS" in red, "C", a treble clef, and "C Deck". The main part of the diagram is a piano keyboard with the notes C, E, and G highlighted in red. Below the keyboard is a table with the following data:

Bass	Left and Right Hand	Tension	Open
C	C E G	0	3.5

In looking at the three notes that make up this chord C E and G, it can function as no other chords besides a C Major chord. There is no other chord here.

So you must learn this chord in all 12 keys. It cannot function elsewhere.

We could stretch it a bit and say this chord can also function as an Em#5 if we consider E as the root with G being the minor 3 and C being the #5.

So we might have two uses out of this chord, the key of C and the key of E, otherwise you need to transpose it to all other keys.

Bear in mind that is a very simple example and transposing this chord to all keys is very simple and most people all ready know all of the major chords in all 12 keys.

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But I am trying to prove a point. As you play more complex chords, the need for transposing becomes unnecessary because some complex chords have multiple uses due to the increased number of accidentals in the chords.

In other words the chords fit into more keys.

Let's look at a more complicated example, consider the following chord.

THE Ab13sus CHORD:

Ab 13 sus

Left Hand [M] BASS Ab

[V] 13 sus Chord (1077)

Db Deck

Bass	Left and Right Hand	Tension	Open
1	7 1 9 4 6 1	0.67	2.8

This chord has multiple uses

We can use it as is in the key of Ab.

We can use it in the key of Gb:

- 1) It can be a Gb Chord – Gb, Bb, and Db

We can use it in the key of Bb

- 2) It can be a Bb Chord - Bb, Db and F

We can use it in the key of Db

- 3) It can be a Db chord – Db, F and Ab

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We got three uses out of a single chord! This single chord covers three key signatures!!

That is just a brief explanation of why you need to step up your chord game.

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OF HOW TO PLAY WITHOUT TRANSPOSING
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WEEKS!!**

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