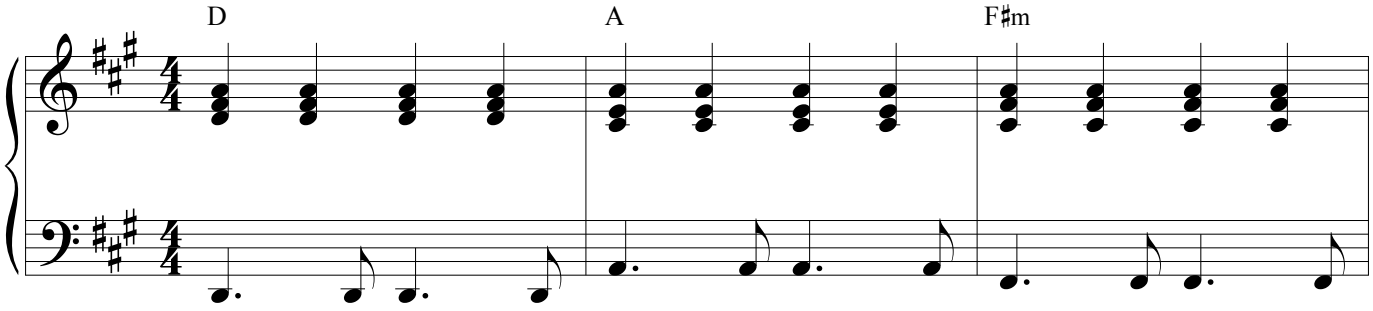
Accompaniment Patterns for Contemporary Piano

(accompaniment pattern examples)

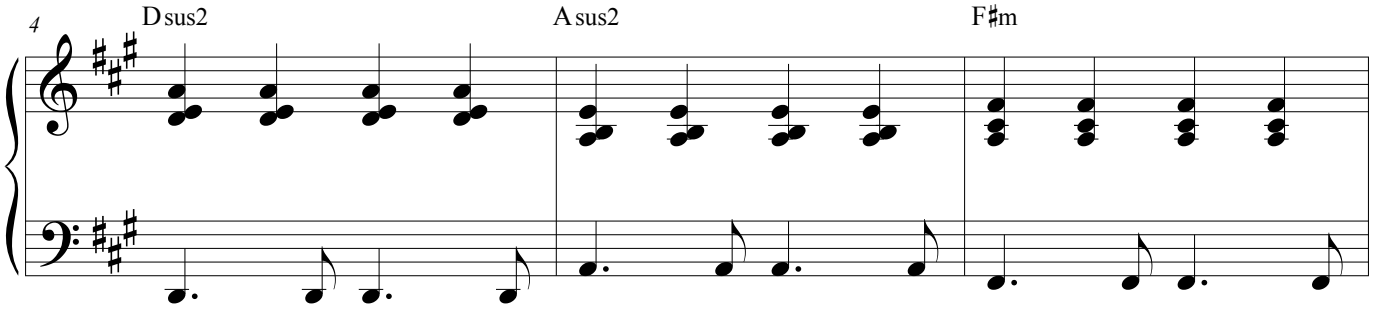
Here is an example of possible variations of accompaniment patterns that might be used in contemporary styles. On this example I used the first three chords of "Mighty to Save" that was used at a convention in Ft. Worth, TX where I was teaching a workshop. There are many ways to approach this, but this will give you an idea of the great amount of variety that can be used with the same three chords and any other chords that you may use.

by James Michael Stevens

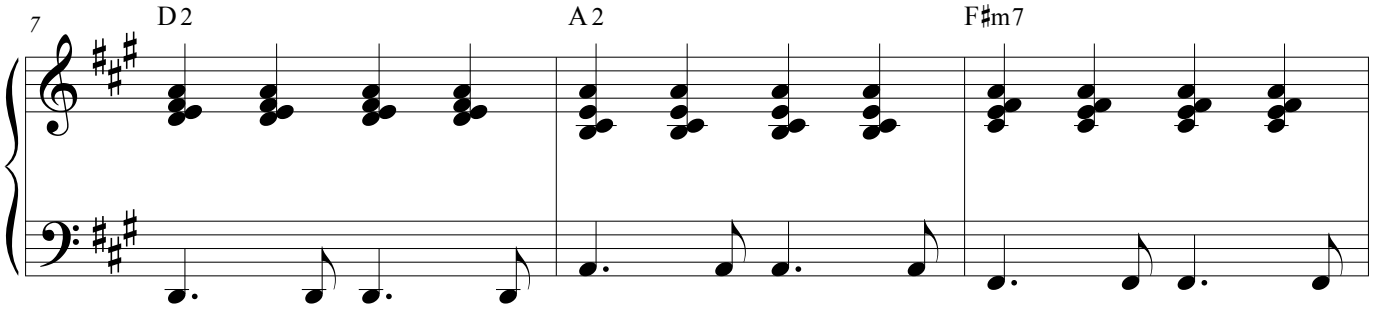
1. Most basic pattern. RH plays chords on beats, LH mimics the Bass Guitar



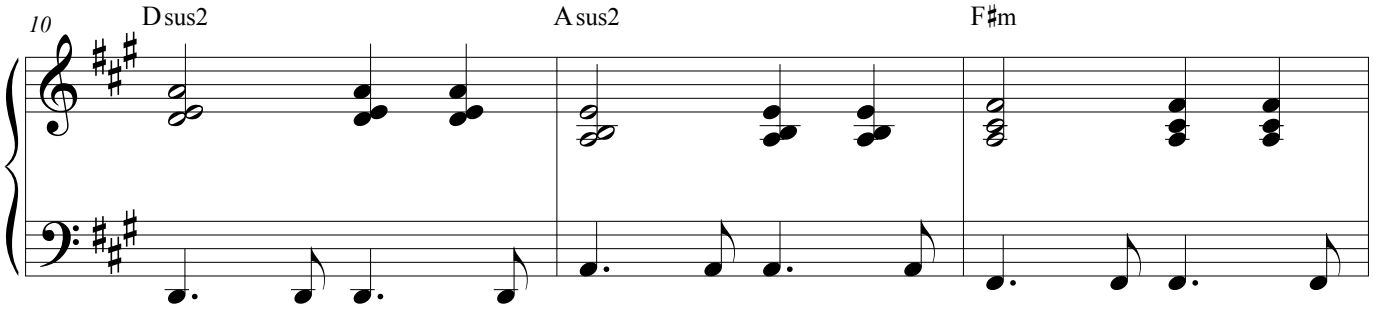
2. Same pattern as one, but with suspended 2 chords used.



3. Same pattern with 2 added to the major chords and the 7 added to the minor.



4. Just changing the rhythm in the RH.



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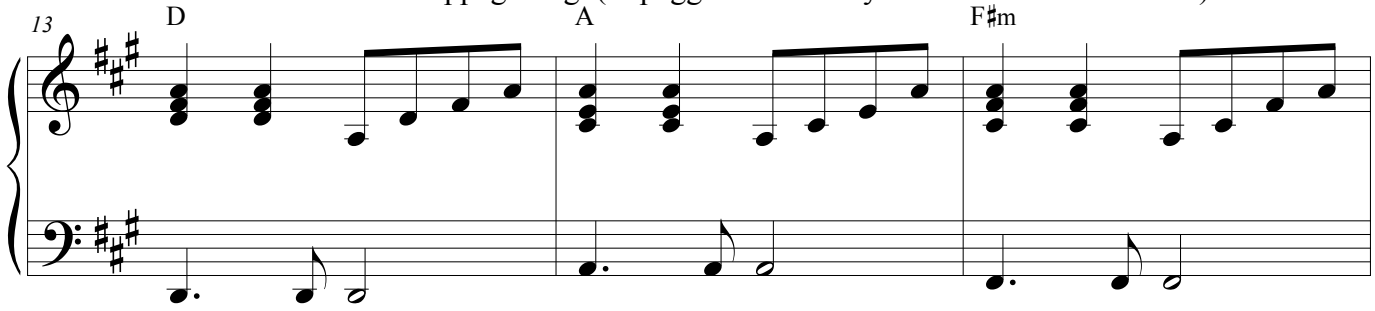
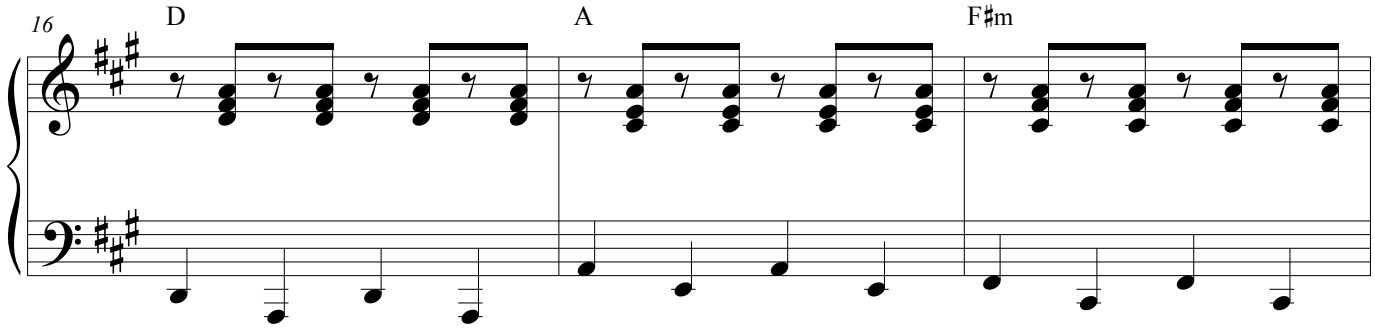
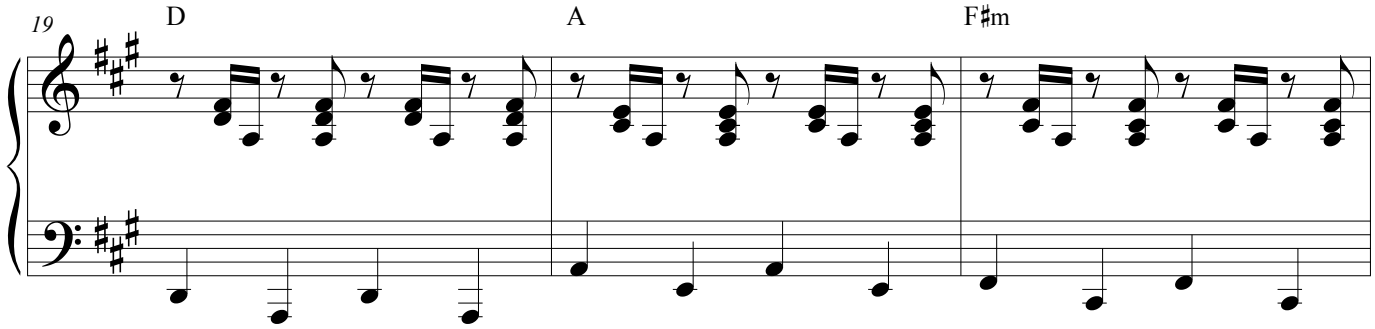
5. Chords for 2 beats and then arppegiating. (Arpeggiate is a fancy word for broken chords!)



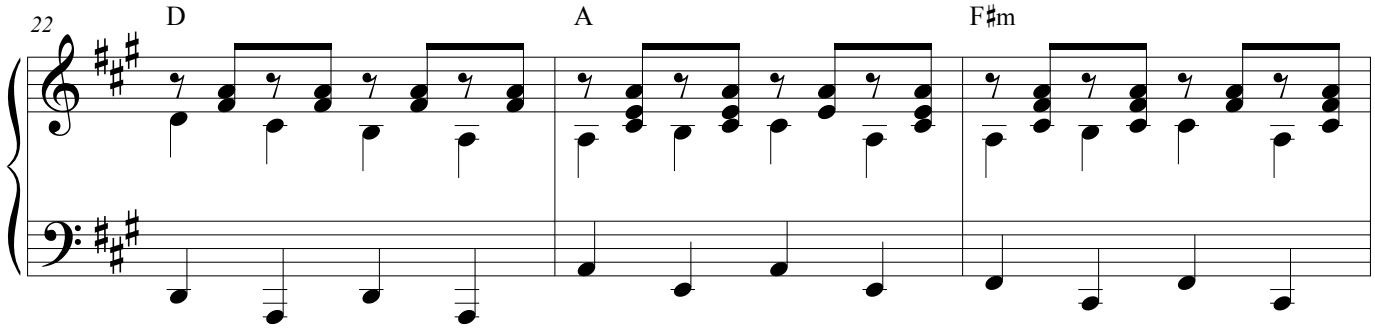
6. Classic Boom Chick!



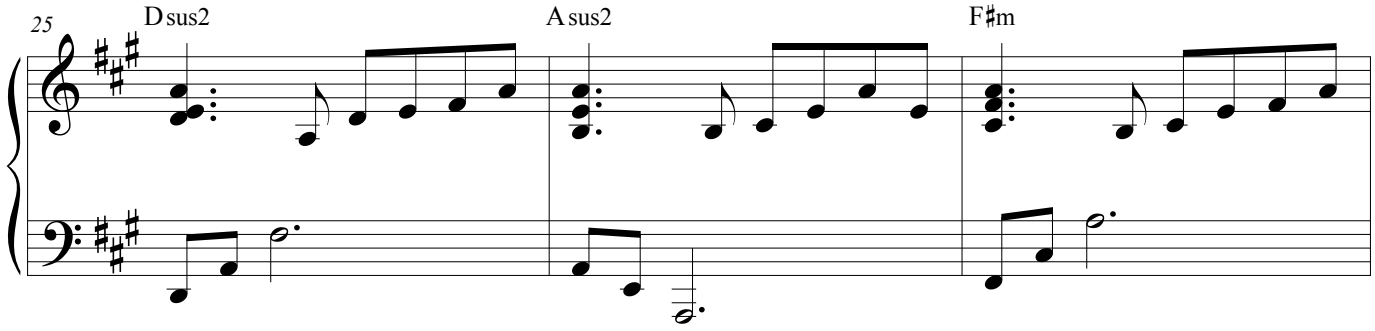
7. Middle Eastern Boom Chick



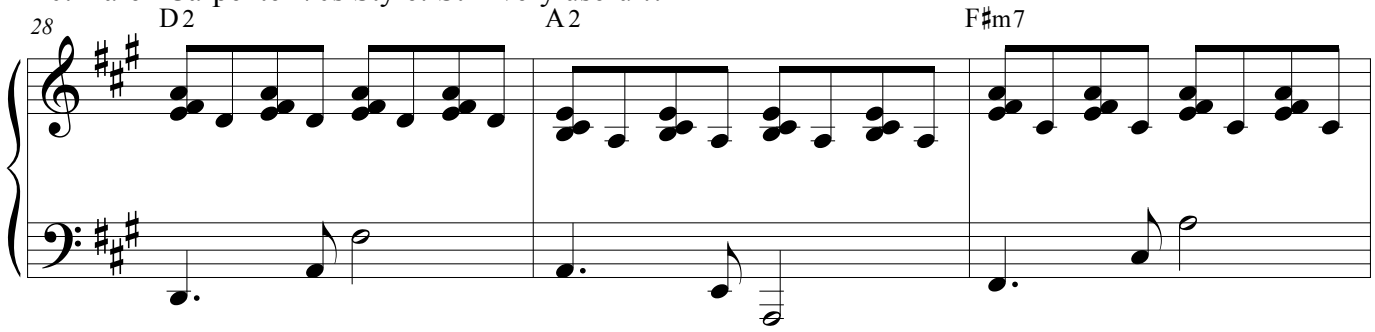
8. "Broadway" Boom Chick adding an internal line.



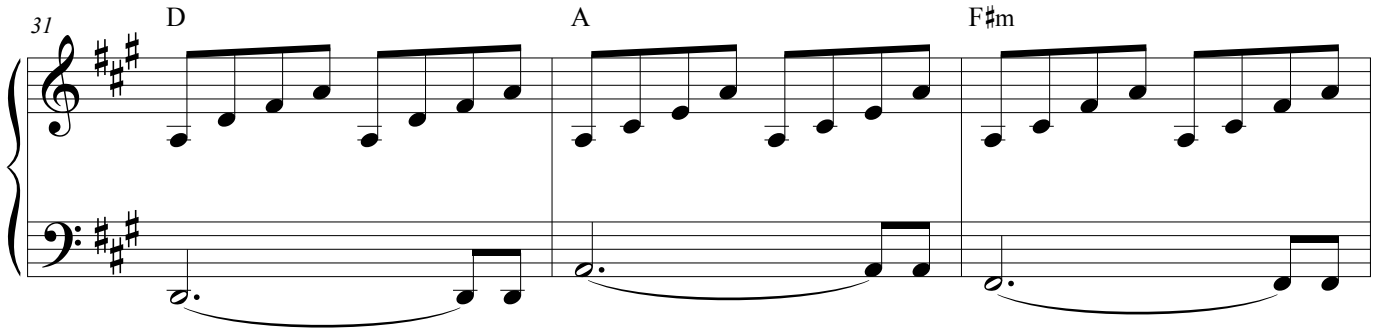
9. Basic arpeggiated pattern beginning in the LH.



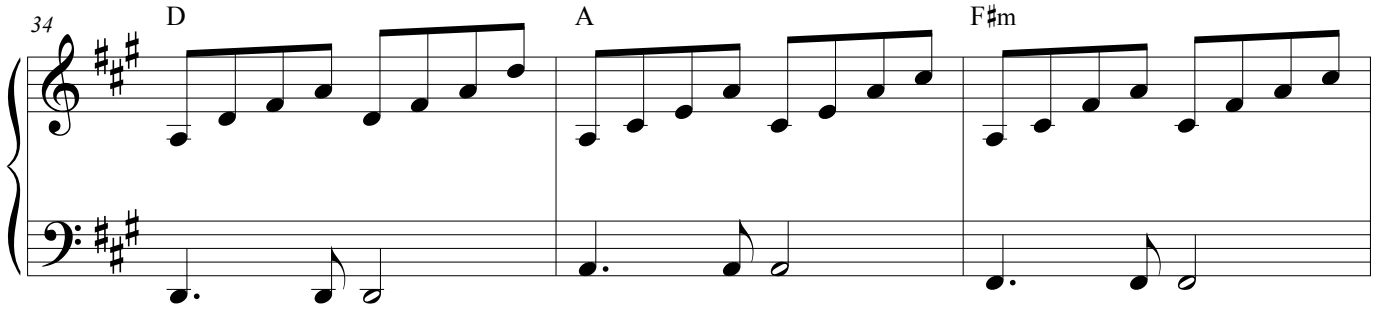
10. Karen Carpenter 70s Style! Still very useful!!



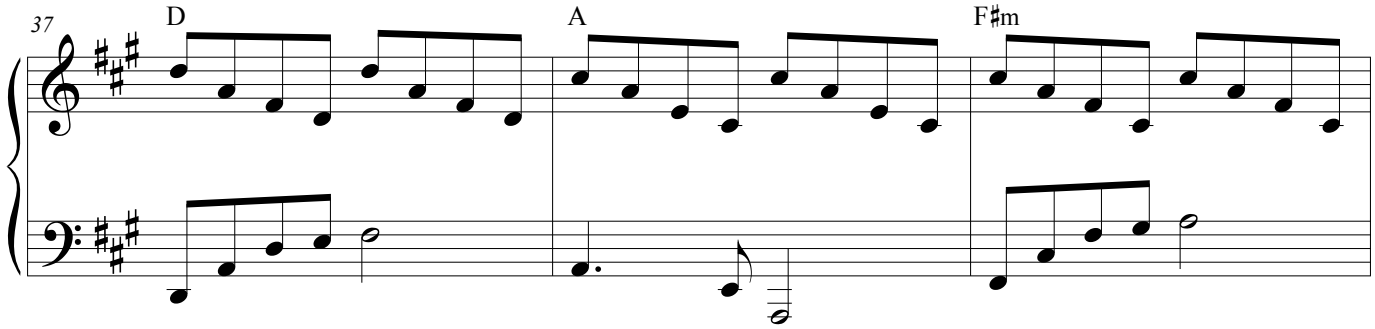
11. Broken chord from bottom to top.



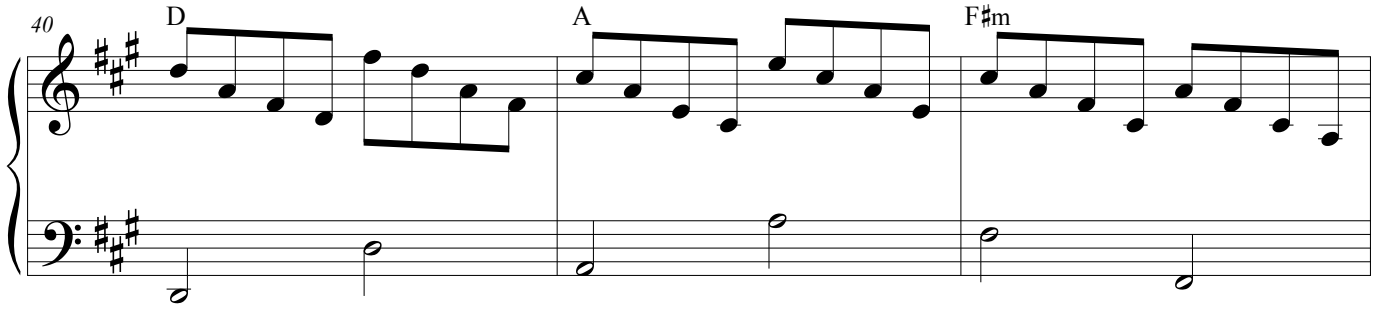
12. Same arpeggiated pattern but adding the inversion on the 2nd half of the measure.



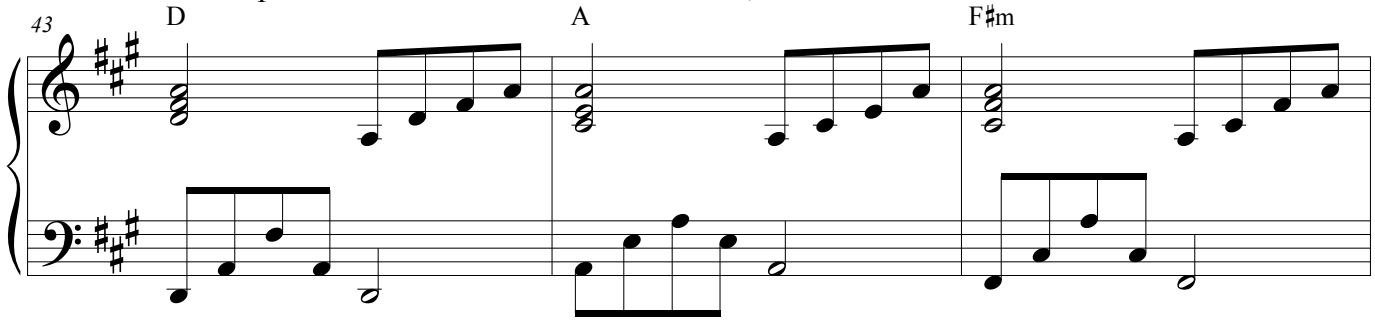
13. Broken chord from top to bottom.



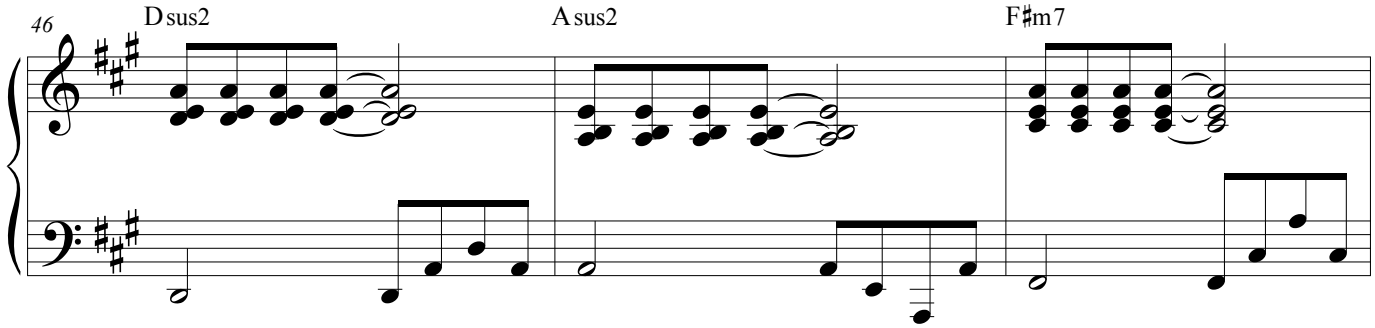
14. Broken chord from top to bottom using inversions on the 2nd half of each measure.



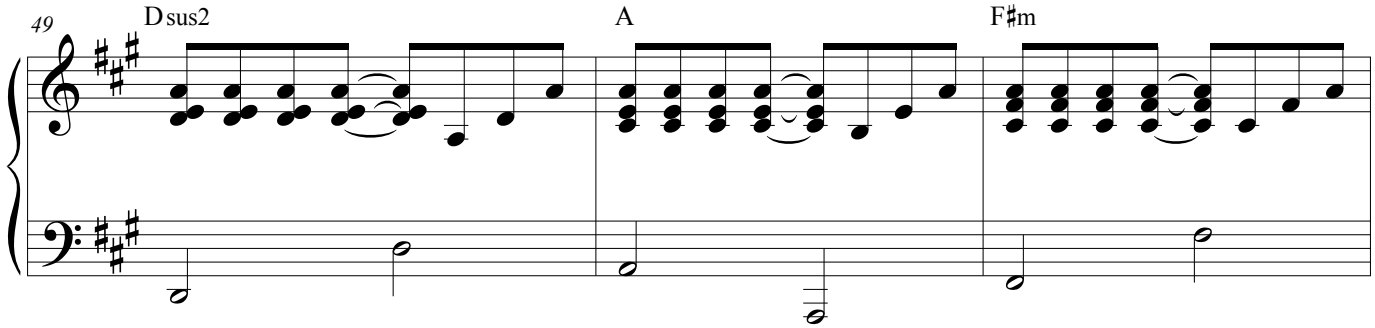
15. Broken chord patterns - LH 1st half of each measure, RH 2nd half.



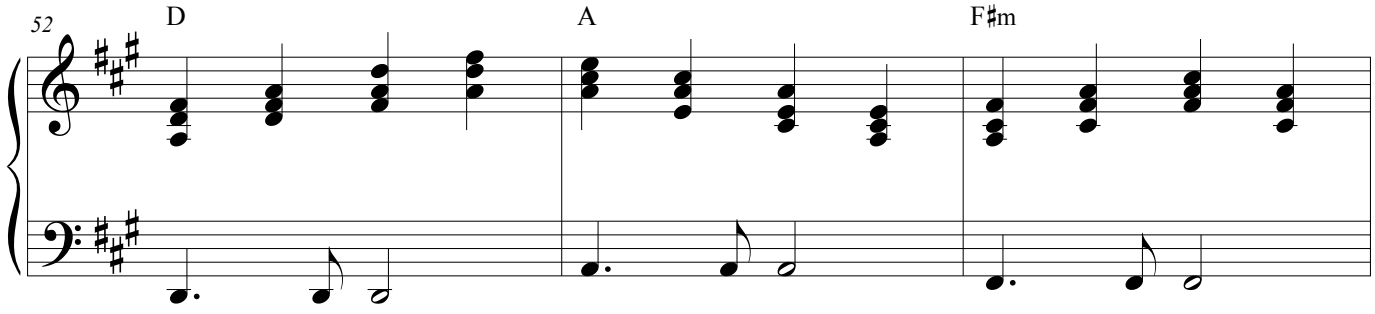
16. Alternating between RH block chords and LH broken chords.



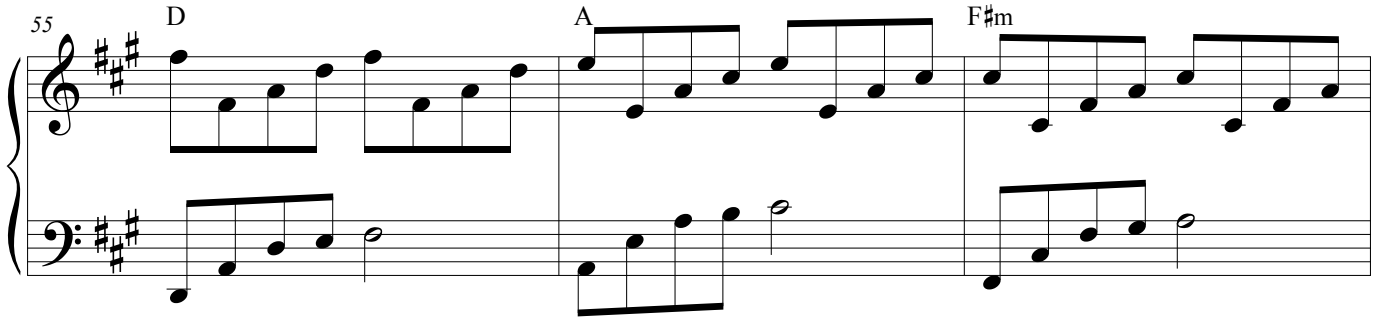
17. RH blocked and then broken.



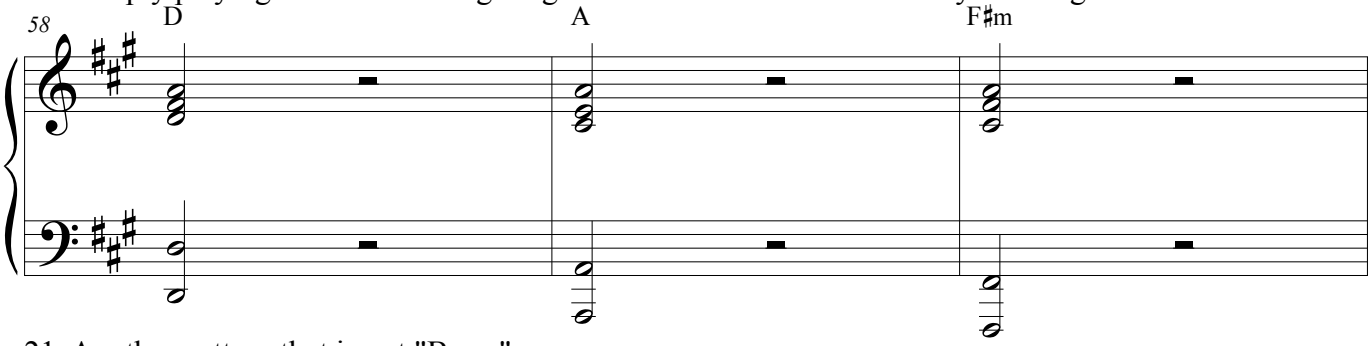
18. Simply using inversions in the RH.



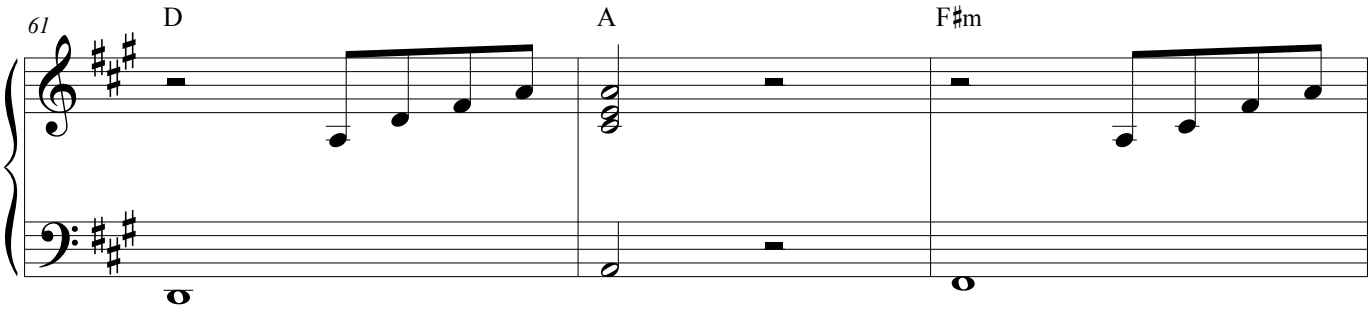
19. Broken pattern in the RH, but notice the bass - root, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th... a highly useful pattern!



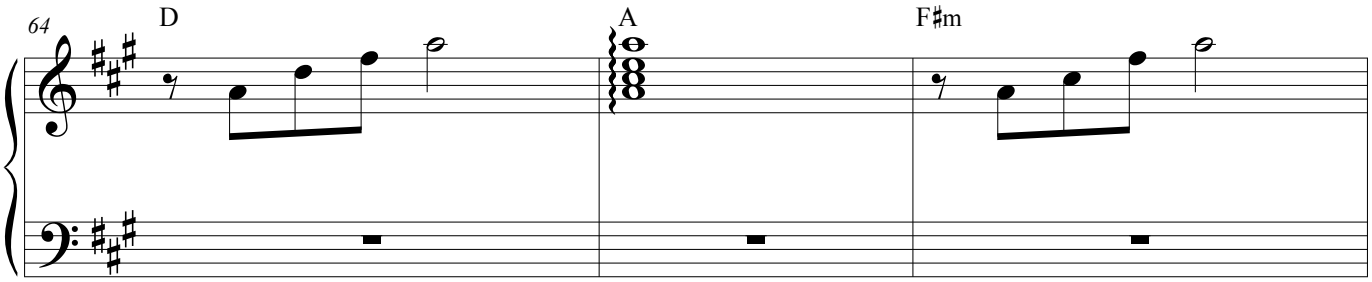
20. Simply playing a half note and giving rest on beats 3 and 4. Less busy can be great!



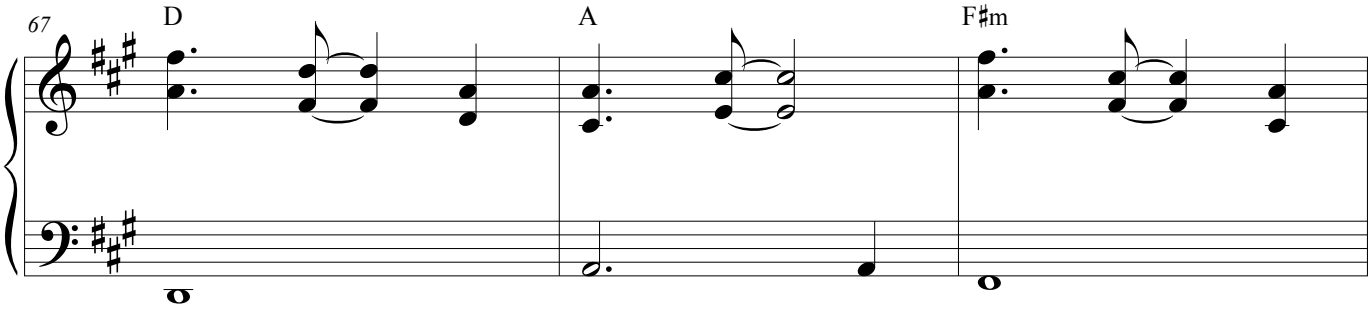
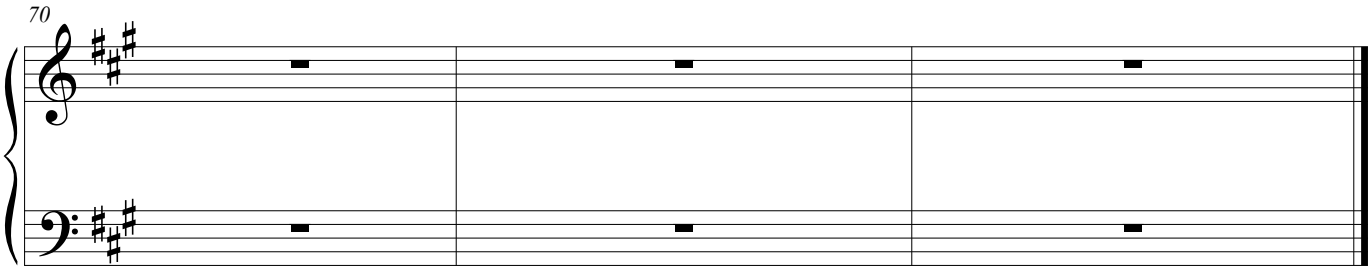
21. Another pattern that is not "Busy."



22. Once again, if others are playing, sometimes "Less Is More!"



23. Simple syncopated pattern with the middle note left out of each chord.



24. **NO PIANO** (Give it a rest and let the guitar carry it alone sometimes and vice versa)