

Swing rhythm

Pam's noticeboard

You'll hear **swing rhythm** a lot in jazz music, when quavers are played with a slightly different rhythm. Instead of  you should play 

To get started, try playing a dotted rhythm  but then relax the dotted feel slightly.

Track 1: backing track

Baby bouncer

Look out for the accents – they'll help you feel the swing rhythm.

Bouncy swing ♩ = 116 Pam Wedgwood



1.
 2.

mf
 p
 f
 mp
 poco rit.
 p

Listen to a recording of *It had to be you* by Harry Connick Junior to really get the feel of swing rhythm.

Improvisation

Pam's noticeboard

Here are the main points to remember about improvising:

- 1 Learn the original melody ('head') so you can play it from memory.
- 2 See which notes fit by looking at the melody, or try some notes to find out which sound good.
- 3 When you start to improvise, play the original melody but change it slightly.
- 4 Keep the rhythm going.
- 5 Remember, there is no such thing as a wrong note, so experiment and have fun!

Track 12: backing track

Taking the plunge!

This piece starts off with the 'head' (melody) and then goes into a sample improvisation. Which key is the piece in? Can you spot any blue notes? Once you can play it easily, try an improvisation of your own using the same left-hand chords.

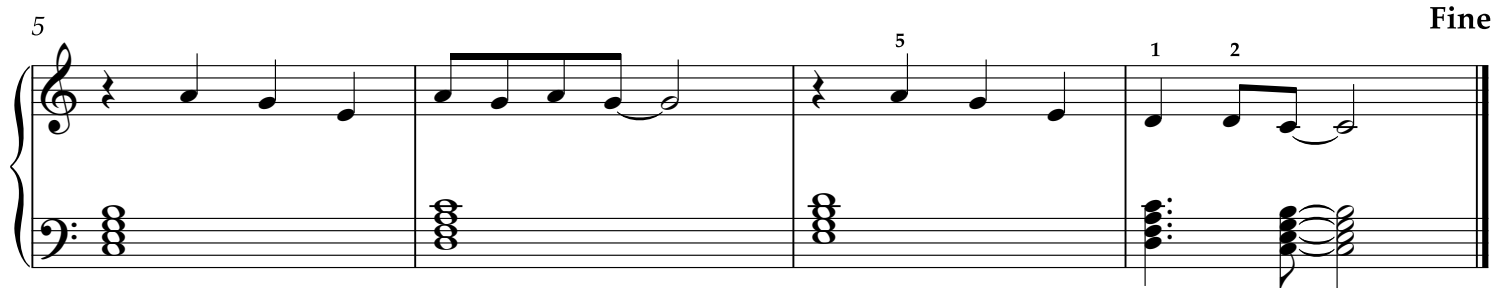
In a relaxed style ♩ = 104

Olly Wedgwood

Head 4



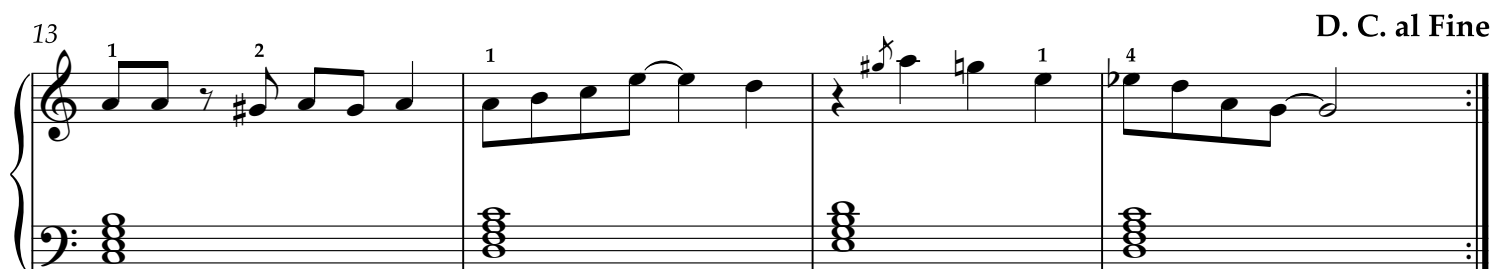
5 Fine



9 Sample improvisation



13 D. C. al Fine



top tip Give yourself 'space' when you improvise – the silences are just as important as the notes.

Secondo

Next stop, Piccadilly! (duet)

Olly Wedgwood

Jauntily, avoiding pedestrians! ♩ = 180 (♩ = ♩³)