

Dude...That Accordion Rocks Even More!

(i.e. Part 2 of “Dude...That Accordion Rocks!”)

Jim Rommel

Introduction

1. Purpose of this workshop vs Part 1

Key take-ways from Part 1 Workshop: “Dude! That Accordion Rocks”

1. Don't play it like a Polka! This is the biggest mistake most accordionists make!
2. Look for songs that work well with the accordion – many do, some don't.
3. Select the style of music you enjoy most, but understand the style of music selected.
 - a. Jazz <> Rock <> R&B <> Pop <> Hip-Hop <> Country, etc...
 - b. Also different eras and styles within each of the above.
4. Focus on how you are playing the left hand (imitating bass guitar & drums)
5. Listen to the recorded classic hit. Analyze and try to replicate:
 - a) Melody
 - b) Bass
 - c) Beat (Drums)
 - d) Harmony & Chord structures
 - e) Instrumentation
 - f) Significant / interesting background lines

(focus of this workshop)
6. Approach to learning a song:
 - a) Use printed or online music as a guide & starting point to learn get the melody, the bass and the chord composition.
 - b) Listen over & over again to the original recorded hit – become familiar with it (Spotify or Pandora).
 - c) Breakdown & analyze what you hear – what do you hear besides just the melody that you want to bring out when you play?

(focus of this workshop)

**Breakdown Analysis of
“Saturday in the Park”
by Chicago (1973)**

Listen for:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. Melody | 5. Harmony & Chord structures |
| 2. Bass | 6. Significant or interesting background effects |
| 3. Beat (Drums) | 7. Significant changes to any of the above |
| 4. Instrumentation | |

Characteristics of the song:

- 1) Notice the bass pattern & rhythm – not a polka (demonstrate that)
- 2) Lots of Brass – some “big band” type sounds – big chords – lots of brass expression
- 3) Lots of complexity in the melody line, harmonies, key changes, background, timbre, changing rhythms, beats, etc...
- 4) Decide what you hear that is important and needs to be included in your arrangement – you can’t do it all!

Listen: “Long Clip 1 Summary of clips 01-12 together”

Line-by-Line breakdown of Intro & First Verse:

1) Intro-1: Listen: “Clip 01 Intro 1.mp3”

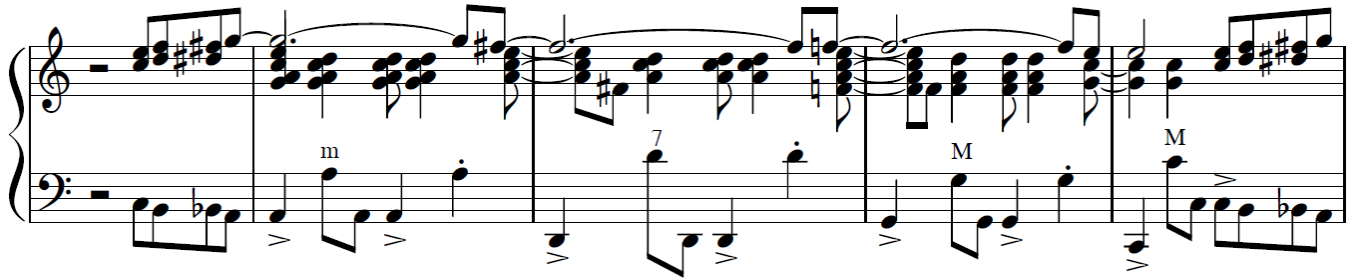
- a. Intro Pattern over a strong quarter note repeating bass

♩ = 116

The musical notation for Intro-1 is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 116. The bass line consists of a repeating pattern of quarter notes: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1. The right hand features a series of chords and melodic fragments: G4-G5, F4-F5, E4-E5, D4-D5, C4-C5, B3-B4, A3-A4, G3-G4, F3-F4, E3-E4, D3-D4, C3-C4, B2-B3, A2-A3, G2-G3, F2-F3, E2-E3, D2-D3, C2-C3, B1-B2, A1-A2, G1-G2, F1-F2, E1-E2, D1-D2, C1-C2, B0-B1, A0-A1, G0-G1, F0-F1, E0-E1, D0-D1, C0-C1, B-1-B0, A-1-A0, G-1-G0, F-1-F0, E-1-E0, D-1-D0, C-1-C0, B-2-B-1, A-2-A-1, G-2-G-1, F-2-F-1, E-2-E-1, D-2-D-1, C-2-C-1, B-3-B-2, A-3-A-2, G-3-G-2, F-3-F-2, E-3-E-2, D-3-D-2, C-3-C-2, B-4-B-3, A-4-A-3, G-4-G-3, F-4-F-3, E-4-E-3, D-4-D-3, C-4-C-3, B-5-B-4, A-5-A-4, G-5-G-4, F-5-F-4, E-5-E-4, D-5-D-4, C-5-C-4, B-6-B-5, A-6-A-5, G-6-G-5, F-6-F-5, E-6-E-5, D-6-D-5, C-6-C-5, B-7-B-6, A-7-A-6, G-7-G-6, F-7-F-6, E-7-E-6, D-7-D-6, C-7-C-6, B-8-B-7, A-8-A-6, G-8-G-6, F-8-F-6, E-8-E-6, D-8-D-6, C-8-C-6, B-9-B-6, A-9-A-6, G-9-G-6, F-9-F-6, E-9-E-6, D-9-D-6, C-9-C-6, B-10-B-6, A-10-A-6, G-10-G-6, F-10-F-6, E-10-E-6, D-10-D-6, C-10-C-6, B-11-B-6, A-11-A-6, G-11-G-6, F-11-F-6, E-11-E-6, D-11-D-6, C-11-C-6, 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3) **Intro-3:** Listen: “Clip 03 Intro 3.mp3”

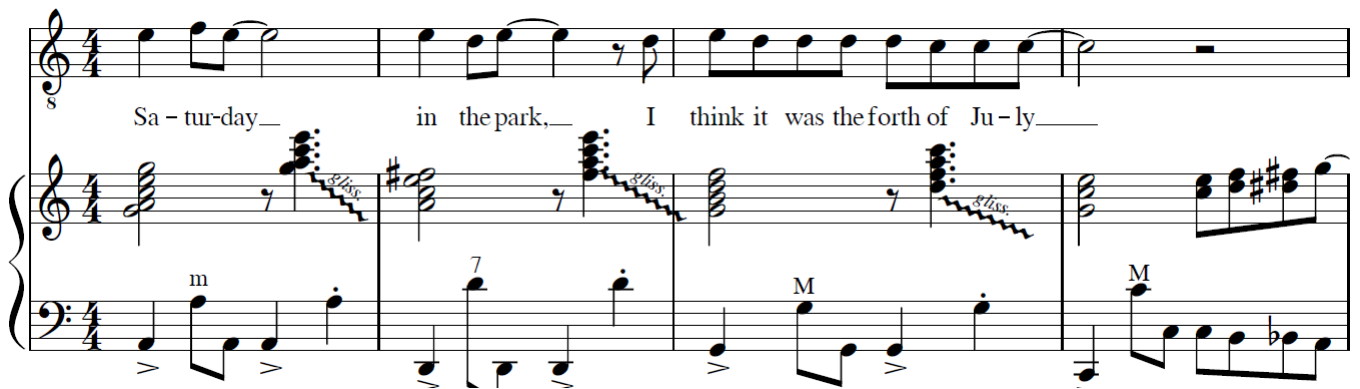
- a. Descending Trumpet line over repeated intro



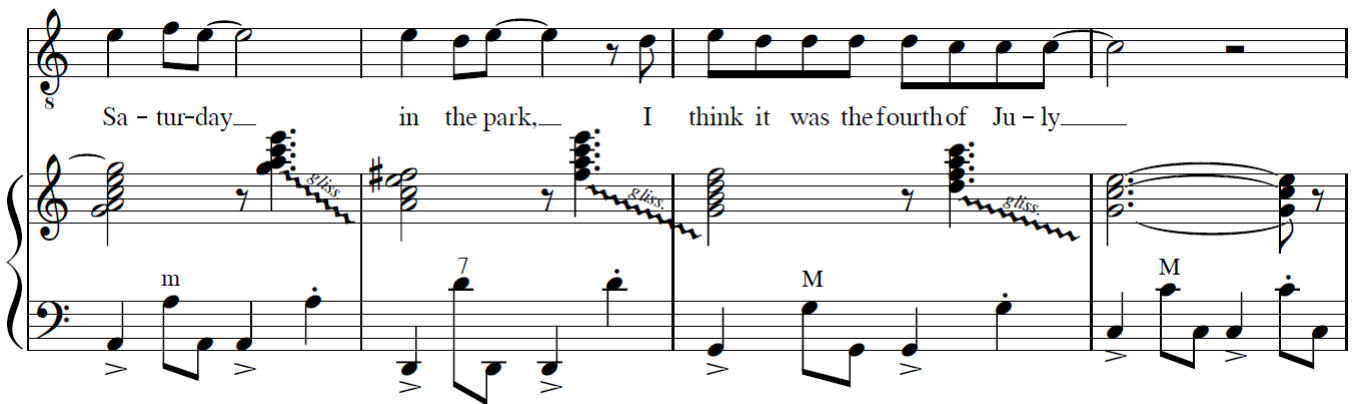
Musical score for Intro-3. The score is in 4/4 time and consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff contains a descending trumpet line with various ornaments and slurs. The bass staff contains a piano accompaniment with chords and a descending line. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The piece ends with a final chord marked 'M'.

4) **“Saturday in the Park, I think it was the Fourth of July”:** Listen: “Clip 04 Saturday---July.mp3”

- a. Piano background rhythm continues
b. Trumpet line plays high note, then lower note
c. Section repeats



Musical score for “Saturday in the Park, I think it was the Fourth of July” (first instance). The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a trumpet line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: “Sa - tur-day_ in the park,_ I think it was the fourth of Ju - ly_____”. The piano accompaniment features a descending line with chords and a final chord marked 'M'. The trumpet line plays a high note followed by a lower note. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).



Musical score for “Saturday in the Park, I think it was the Fourth of July” (second instance). The score is in 4/4 time and consists of three staves: a vocal line, a piano accompaniment, and a trumpet line. The vocal line contains the lyrics: “Sa - tur-day_ in the park,_ I think it was the fourth of Ju - ly_____”. The piano accompaniment features a descending line with chords and a final chord marked 'M'. The trumpet line plays a high note followed by a lower note. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

- 5) **“People dancing, people laughing”**: [Listen: “Clip 05 People dancing people laughing.mp3”](#)
- Sudden jump from CM to Bm7-->Em
 - Lots of drum licks stray away from standard driving beat

Musical score for "People dancing, people laughing". The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part has two lines of lyrics: "Peo - ple danc - ing, peo - ple laugh - ing,". The piano accompaniment features a complex rhythmic pattern with many accents and slurs, and a melodic line in the bass clef with a 'm' marking.

- 6) **“A man selling ice cream”**: [Listen: “Clip 06 A man selling ice cream.mp3”](#)
- A Major chord over D in bass repeated in a specific rhythm.
 - No more driving beat that was there since the beginning.

Musical score for "A man selling ice cream". The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part has the lyrics "a man sell-ing ice cream". The piano accompaniment features a Major chord over D in the bass, repeated in a specific rhythm, and a melodic line in the treble clef.

- 7) **“Singing Italian songs”**: [Listen: “Clip 07 Singing Italian Songs.mp3”](#)
- no background beat – all parts play same rhythm as melody line

Musical score for "Singing Italian songs". The score is written for voice and piano. The voice part has the lyrics "singing I - tal - ian songs". The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the treble clef and a bass line in the bass clef, both playing the same rhythm as the melody line.

8) “Songs” and Trumpets: Listen: “Clip 08 Songs.mp3”

- a. Cool brass lick over sustained D bass
- b. Drums build lead into next section

singing I-tal-ian songs

mp

Listen: “Long Clip 2 Summary of clips 05-08 together”

9) “Eh Cumpari ci vo sunari – can you dig it...yes I can”:

Listen: “Clip 09 Eh Cumpari ci vo sunari---Yes I can.mp3”

- a. Resume strong driving beat
- b. Lots of big brass sustained chords in repeated long-rhythmic pattern

(Eh Cum - pa - ri, ci vo su-na-ri.) Can you dig it? Yes, I can.

fp

10) “And I’ve been waiting such a long time”: Listen: “Clip 10 Waiting such a long time.mp3”

- a. Am7 chords repeated in specific rhythm, not a driving rhythm

And I've been waiting such a long time

mp

11) After “time” through “Saturday”: Listen: “Clip 11 Time --- for Saturday.mp3”

- a. Another cool brass lick leading to an interesting D2 chord



Musical score for Clip 11, showing a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics "time for Saturday". The piano accompaniment features a complex brass lick in the right hand and a driving bass line in the left hand.

12) From “Saturday” through the bridge before the repeat:

Listen: “Clip 12 Saturday and bridge before repeat.mp3”

- a. Lots of busy drums transitioning back to the standard driving beat
- b. Trombone melody line as a bridge, then repeat “Saturday in the Park” section



Musical score for Clip 12, showing a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line includes the lyrics "Saturday". The piano accompaniment features a busy drum pattern in the right hand and a driving bass line in the left hand.

Listen: “Long Clip 4 Summary of clips 09-12 together.mp3”