

## Step 5 Chords and Bass Notes Together

At this point, we begin to combine our previous exercises together. Playing the harmonies with our RH while playing the bass with our LH serves many different purposes. We are hearing the harmonies with the root motion which is great for progression recognition. We are also practicing our comping at the same time, so if we are to play this tune in a group we will easily be able to move around the harmonies and simply add some two-handed voicings. Practicing with the bass also allows us to hear what harmonies and voicings sound the best with the bass in the bottom. Sometimes, you will play a voicing that sounds decent in the middle register, but when you add the bass note to the equation, the voicing sounds terrible. By having the bass notes there as well, you can begin to hear exactly what the harmonic progressions are going to sound like.

This is really where we start to hear the essence of the piece. Someone might actually be able to tell what you are playing at this point! (See below).

The image displays a musical exercise on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) across four measures. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The chords and their corresponding bass notes are as follows:

Measure	Chord	Bass Note
1	F-	F
2	B <sup>b</sup> -	B <sup>b</sup>
3	E <sup>b</sup>	E <sup>b</sup>
4	A <sup>b</sup>	A <sup>b</sup>

The chords are represented by letter names with accidentals above the treble staff. The bass notes are represented by single notes on the bass staff.