

Step 2 - Ballad

LH Stride with pedal

Playing ballads and improvising can be incredibly tough because your LH has to create a very soft and elegant palate below your RH improvisation. I probably sound like a broken record by now but all your LH is doing is playing LH components in a slow stride style with pedal to connect them. This provides our RH with all the support it needs to improvise however we feel.

Double Time Feel

Another texture we can use for ballads is a double time feel for the ballad. Now, this slightly defeats the purpose of learning how to play the ballad feel because you're now playing in a medium style tempo. It is, however, a very nice texture to incorporate to switch back and forth between the two. It allows many different options for your improvisation and can break you out of the slow stride palate to give some added flavor.