Unit Four: Overview

In this unit we will explore creating piano accompaniments or settings. There are many aspects to writing for piano we will need to think about including keeping forward motion, feel, genre, etc. The unit is comprised of several different handouts, videos, exercises and assignments. I hope you can explore them all!

The videos are grouped in two different areas as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Settings/Accompaniments** | **Piano Options & Formatting** |
| * Overview * Getting Started * Simple Setting * Creative Setting * Complex Setting | * Notational Options * Voicings * Diatonicism * Modulation * Feel * Rhythmic Settings * Orchestration Cues * Formatting |

Assignments in this unit include taking the two songs you have written in the previous unit and creating three different settings for them. The first assignment looks at piano models in your chosen score. The next three assignment ask you to compose a simple setting, then a more creative one, and, finally, a complex setting.

Whether you have previously written a lot for piano or this is your first foray into writing (especially for a musical), there is a lot to explore. I encourage you to push forward into new types of writing to discover some new things that may work for you!