

Master Class Sessions – Lesson 18

Play Piano By Ear Audio Super Course



Hello, and welcome to Lesson 18 of my **PLAY PIANO BY EAR Master Class Sessions**. In this lesson I'll be giving you the entire chord progression, complete with lyrics, to **Honesty**, by *Billy Joel*, and I'll be asking you to fill in the **melody notes** based on the supplied chord chart and MP3 Audio File.

As we near the end of the **21 Master Class Sessions** – *with just 3 sessions remaining* – I want to prepare you to continue your ear-training studies by approaching new songs from two different angles.

First, I want you to enjoy the process. For me, I still like to learn new songs working from just a chord chart. It's a very useful skill and probably the most enjoyable part of playing by ear. So, find what you enjoy the most and do it.

I tend to go through a half a dozen songs at a time, just learning the chords, and then find myself coming back a few weeks later to learn the melody lines one song at a time.

- Now, if you find that you're still having a little difficulty learning chord progressions, don't worry. This part of ear training, especially with more complex chord progressions, *like **Honesty***, can take a little longer than a year to really master.

The goal is to keep moving forward and to keep learning. **I've been playing for over 45 years now**, and I'm still learning new things all the time. That's just the nature of music. There's always something new to learn. That's what makes it frustrating and exciting all at the same time.

- I don't think that I've ever been content with my musical abilities, and I probably never will be. But that's not a bad thing. It's what fuels my passion to teach and my need to constantly get better as a musician and teacher.

A great online resource for help with chords is ultimate-guitar.com. Just go to Google and type in: **chords to "whatever song you're currently learning"** – and the first web site to come up is probably going to be ultimate-guitar.com.

One of my students directed me to this site, so I'm just passing it along. The chord progressions aren't always 100% accurate, but they'll get you moving in the right direction if you ever find yourself stuck on a specific song.

The site also displays the chord symbols along with the lyrics, which is extremely useful for our purposes.

Another good technique to continue moving forward with your ear-training, which I've mentioned in several earlier lessons, is to make a copy of a piece of sheet music and then white-out all of the chords.

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With just the melody line, you can now go through the song measure by measure, figuring out the chords based on the melody. You can always refer back to the original sheet music to check your accuracy.

Working from **just a chord progression**, or from **just a melody line** are, **two great ways** to develop your ear beyond the lessons in my online course.

The Lesson

1. Start listening to the MP3 of Honesty, but don't learn the melody just yet. Spend at least a week just listening to the MP3.
2. In the mean time, begin learning the chord progression exactly as I have it written on the chord chart.
3. Once you've **mastered the chord progression**, then begin learning the melody.
4. Try to learn the melody by memory as you play the left-hand chord progression. At this point in the lesson, don't continue to replay the MP3 while you're learning the melody. You can listen to the MP3 before you start, but not while you're playing the chord progression.
5. The goal is to try and hear the melody from the chords, or to hear a specific note within a chord. This will be the process for the next 3 Master Class Sessions.

As I mentioned earlier, it's a very useful musical skill to be able to hear the melody based on just hearing the chord progression – and for me, it's probably the most enjoyable part of playing by ear.