

Stride Pattern

Definition of **stride** piano. : a style of jazz piano playing in which the right hand plays the melody while the left hand alternates between a single note and a chord played an octave or more higher.

The **most famous** among the Big 3 of Harlem **Stride** masters was Thomas "Fats" Waller. In the beginning Fats was a student of James P. Johnson soon mastering the style and innovating new approaches which helped lay the groundwork for modern jazz **piano**

Examples:

The first musical example is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes: G4, A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a stride pattern alternating between single notes and chords: G2, Bb3, G2, Bb3, G2, Bb3, G2, Bb3. The second musical example is in 2/4 time and D major. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes: D4, E4, F#4, G4, F#4, E4, D4. The left hand plays a stride pattern alternating between single notes and chords: D2, F#3, D2, F#3, D2, F#3, D2, F#3.

Stride means originally “ walk with long, decisive steps in a specified direction.” Here in music it means the wide movement of the left hand between a bass tone and a chord.

Stride patterns are used by classical composers (Chopin) and Ragtime Composers (Joplin) to name a few. Stride style gives a full harmonic experience and is a nice alternative for a composition.