

CHAPTER 4 - EMBELLISHING THE MELODY

Scott: All right gang, we need to keep going and dig a little deeper! You are about to learn another bassline technique as well as how to personalize a melody.

Scott: Let's talk about the right hand. What else does it do besides play the melody?

Bradley: The right hand personalizes a song through embellishment.

First, let me say that melody matters a lot! A lot of musicians forget that. For most listeners, the melody is their way into a song. Recognizing the melody helps the listener appreciate your rendition of a particular song. So it's important to play the melody up front in the beginning of a song.

Let's use a different song to explore melodic possibilities. Here's an old favorite in lead sheet form:

SHE'LL BE COMIN' 'ROUND THE MOUNTAIN

FOLK SONG

The lead sheet for 'She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain' is written in G major and 2/4 time. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff is the melody, starting with a G chord. The second staff is the bass line, starting with a D7 chord. The third staff is the bass line, starting with a G chord, followed by G7, C, and A7 chords. The fourth staff is the bass line, starting with a G/D chord, followed by D7 and G chords.