

ACCOMPANYING IN A GROUP

General remarks:

- don't need to play with both hands all the time...
- ... but you should always play chords in the zone around and below middle C
- you don't need to play ALL the changes
- may alternate block / broken chords
- keep it clean and simple

Normally, in the sheet music you might have a chord per measure, or 2 chords in a measure (divided equally). Playing Whole and half notes only is boring.

- rhythmic variations, move the chords around the down-beats
- "pushes" = move the chords an 8th to the left, and accent it, since now it is a syncopation.
- The electric piano, having longer decay in sound, might play more on the downbeats and hold the chords longer

ACCOMPANYING BEHIND THE TUNE

- follow the tune's dynamic accents
- Fills:
 - o Rhythmic fills
 - o Melodic fills
- Solo behind the tune (keep it for special occasions only...☺)

ACCOMPANYING BEHIND THE SOLO

- try to foresee the soloist dynamic accents and follow them
- Fills: rhythmic fills ok, NO melodic fills

DOUBLE TIME

Sometimes, when improvising in medium/med-slow tempo, the soloist might double the time: in stead of swinging 8ths he is now playing swinging 16ths, for a longer or shorter period of time

- accompany him in double time (if he started it)
- the whole band may switch to double time, either spontaneously, or as previously agreed upon
- ATTN: the timing of the changes will stay the same

For melodic instruments (reeds, brass), "accompaniment" might mean to find a simple line going stepwise up or down, in the harmony, behind the tune. YOU might want to try that too...