



Bite size Composition

THEME - Ornamentation - Embellishing Your Melody

There are lots of interpretations of ornaments and they sometimes have different names in different genres/eras, but here are a few ideas you might like to try.

Grace notes/Acciaccaturas are fast, crushed notes that are played either just before then main note, before the beat or very fast at the beginning of the note on the beat and stealing a bit of it's time.



Roll - 2 finger roll. 3 finger roll. - grace notes all on the same note as the melody note.



Cuts - a grace note using the same pitch as the previous note or any other strong harmonic note. These can sound great on big intervals or from any harmonically strong note...your ears will tell you what works!



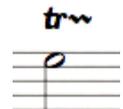
Turns - Playing around a note, an upper turn goes up first, and a lower turn goes down first, If the symbol is over a note the turn starts straight away, if after note then the main note if played first before going into the turn.



Mordents - nice and easy, a quick flick to the note above and back (upper mordent) or below and back (lower mordent)



Trill - A reiteration of 2 notes, speed can vary depending on the style of the piece. Sometimes a turn is used to finish a trill.



Glissandos - a musical slide. Up/down/both. It's good to show clearly what note you are starting and ending the glissando on, and how long you want it to last.



Remember more is often less, and an ornamentation is often really effective if not over done! (as you will see by my very over done example!!)

Amazing Grace (notes!)

The image displays a musical score for the hymn 'Amazing Grace' in 3/4 time, presented in four staves. The first staff (measures 0-7) features a melody with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It includes two triplet markings (indicated by a '3' below the notes) and a fermata over the final note. The second staff (measures 8-16) continues the melody, also featuring two triplet markings and a fermata. The third staff (measures 17-23) includes a repeat sign at the beginning, a triplet, and a fermata. The fourth staff (measures 24-31) begins with a fermata, followed by a triplet, and ends with a fermata. The score is written in a simple, clear style suitable for educational purposes.

Exercise

- Take any tune you are familiar with and have a go at adding in different types of ornamentation, or you could start with a small melody of arpeggios and scales, or use the snippet below.

The image shows a short musical snippet in 4/4 time, consisting of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The melody is a simple sequence of notes: a quarter note, followed by two eighth notes, then a quarter note, followed by two eighth notes, and finally a quarter note. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5.