

Tips for playing appropriate music under meditation.

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1. You are strictly underscore, there to provide a soothing accompaniment to the message of the meditation. The volume of your music should be *p* or *pp*.
2. If it is possible to use an electronic keyboard with a “strings” setting, please use that. It provides a very nice, legato sound that will not be overpowering. Also, play molto legato, using the sustain pedal, if desired, or, as if you were playing an organ.
3. If you are using an acoustic piano, play your chord progressions in the range of Ab2 to C5; basically in the middle of the keyboard, and leaning toward the lower end of that register. (This range also applies to an electronic keyboard if you’re using one.) Those are the richest tones of the piano. Anything above C5 kind of sticks out, even if played quietly.
4. The music can be (a) familiar hymn tunes or (b) simply improvised chord progressions. A melody does not necessarily need to be present. If playing a familiar song, keep it simple and slow. Half-note chords played at mm=60 or less work well.
5. Simple chord progressions played with both hands in a close position work very nicely. Some examples:
 - (1.) I - vi - ii7 - V7 repeat (key of C: C - Amin - Dmin7 - G7 repeat)
 - (2.) I - iii - IV - V - ii7 - V - I repeat (C - Emin - F - G - Dmin - G7 - C repeat)
 - (3.) I - V - vi - I - IV - iii - ii - V7 - I (C - G/B - Amin - C/G - F - Emin - Dmin - G7 - C)
6. It is always nice if the key of the meditation is the same as a congregational song that precedes or follows the meditation.
7. If the meditation includes a moment of silence, be listening for the cue from the minister and fade out where appropriate.