

## Tip of the week! June 24<sup>th</sup> 2013

This weeks tip is about accompanying yourself

Playing an instrument can be very helpful for singers. Playing the piano or guitar for example helps you develop your musicality, your hearing, timing, helps you explain to other musicians what it is you want from them and helps you creating and developing your own sound.

I had never really played an instrument before I started studying at the conservatory, of course I tried but I never took lessons. When I started practicing chords on the piano I was surprised how easy it can be, a few weeks later I played a simple song on the piano while singing and that's the greatest feeling!!

Start with basic chords, find some songs on the internet with just a few simple chords and try to play the groove of the song by listening closely to it. Slowly build your repertoire as you learn more and more chords (make sure you know the difference between minor and major to start with, later on you focus on the more Jazzy Chords like Maj7, Dom7 etc)

For both piano and guitar there's a bunch of websites you can visit for free chordsheets.

Reading Chord symbols is necessary  
on this website you can find an explanation in English, it's Free!  
<http://www.piano-lessons-info.com/read-piano-chords.html>

Reading Tab is handy and sometimes easier than chords symbols, on this website you can find an explanation in Dutch <http://muziek-en-film.infonu.nl/instrumenten/19265-basis-gitaar-akkoorden-en-hoe-moet-je-tablatuur-lezen.html>

Have Fun!