

Commandeering the Keyboard

In the late 1920s, a young piano player – looking for work – entered a movie theater. He waited until the house organist left on a break and then started playing.

Although the film was a sad one, he opened up with his strength, a rollicking blues number, and the audience went wild.

The owner ran out and dragged the musician into his office. First, he berated him for sneaking in: “Did you ask somebody?”

“No,” said the musician. “I just wanted to play it.”



Then the owner, hearing the still-boisterous crowd, said, “Do you want a job?”

The musician took that job, and many more besides. Later, he also gave himself an appropriate name for someone who aimed high: “Count Basie.”

That story is taken from *Good Morning Blues* by Count Basie.

It illustrates that bold moves often get results.

– Beecher Hunter