

Root Position Triads

a study in chord shapes for harpists

Be sure to place this group of three notes before playing the first note.

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The first system of musical notation consists of two staves (treble and bass clef) in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It begins with two measures of whole chords. The third measure shows the notes G, B, and D being played sequentially as quarter notes, with fingerings 3, 2, and 1 indicated above the notes. The fourth measure shows the notes B, D, and G being played sequentially as quarter notes, with fingerings 3, 2, and 1 indicated above the notes. The system concludes with two more measures of whole chords.

The second system of musical notation consists of two staves in G major and 3/4 time. It begins with two measures of whole chords. The third measure shows the notes G, B, and D being played sequentially as quarter notes. The fourth measure shows the notes B, D, and G being played sequentially as quarter notes. The system concludes with two more measures of whole chords.

The third system of musical notation consists of two staves in G major and 3/4 time. The first two measures show the notes G, B, and D being played sequentially as quarter notes in both the treble and bass clefs, with fingerings 1, 2, 3 and 1, 2, 3 indicated above the notes. The system concludes with two measures of whole chords.

The fourth system of musical notation consists of two staves in G major and 3/4 time. The first three measures show the notes G, B, and D being played sequentially as quarter notes in both the treble and bass clefs. The fourth measure shows a whole chord. The system concludes with two more measures of whole chords.

The fifth system of musical notation consists of two staves in G major and 3/4 time. The first two measures show the notes G, B, and D being played sequentially as quarter notes in both the treble and bass clefs. The system concludes with three measures of whole chords.

The root position triad is a commonly used chord shape that your eyes need to recognize and your hands need to find quickly. Place all three fingers simultaneously with no buzzing. Even in the measures where the notes will be played one at a time as quarter notes, they should be placed as a group, the same as when you play the three notes as a chord. It's important to learn to recognize the shape in both forms, as a chord and as notes played separately. The time you spend as a beginner mastering this will save you time later and is a step toward being able to sight read quickly. When you have mastered this, you can learn my arrangements of Westphalia Waltz, Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us, Ode to Joy, We Three Kings or the Sweetheart Waltz.