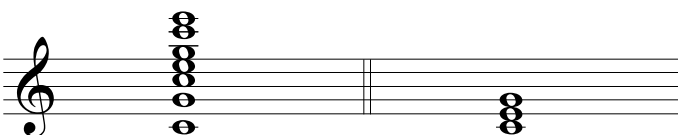


Chord Reduction

Most of the time when analyzing music, you will find chords that span over several octaves and contain more than just three notes. In order to analyze chords we must perform a form of reduction where certain elements are removed. These elements are the redundant pitches. When analyzing a chord, find all the different letter names in the chord. In Ex. 1, there are only three different letter names: C, E, and G. Extract those notes, and re-write the chord. Make sure the bass note of the original (in this case C) is retained, and place the notes in closed position.

Ex. 1

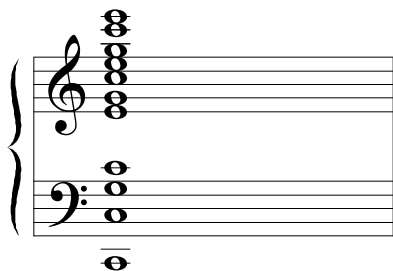
original reduction



You are now ready to analyze the chord's quality, position, and harmonic function in the piece.

Many times you will have to analyze notes that appear in several clefs simultaneously. For example:

Ex. 2



Or, the notes may appear in more than one clef and be spread out rhythmically (arpeggiated):

Ex. 3



In all cases, the technique of reduction is the same. In time, you will be able to simply visualize the process making it much faster.