

Divide and Conquer Part 5: Harmony of the Strings

Bach's C Major Prelude from the Well-Tempered Clavier (Ave Maria)

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Think about the passage and chunk the harmonies:

7th above G

bass 'pedal'

bass pedal C removed

Play the harmonic progression as triads

Musical notation showing four triads on a grand staff. The first triad is C major (C4, E4, G4), the second is F major (F4, A4, C5), the third is C minor (C4, E4b, G4), and the fourth is F minor (F4, A4b, C5). Each triad is held for one measure.

Hum/sing the Ave Maria melody and play the triads

A ve _____ Ma ri a Gra tia _____ ple na

Musical notation for the Ave Maria melody and triads. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time with lyrics: "A ve _____ Ma ri a Gra tia _____ ple na". The bottom staff shows the triads from the previous section. Labels "Sing/Hum" and "Play" are placed below the respective staves.

Hum/sing the Ave Maria melody and play the 'accompaniment' in full

A ve _____ Ma ri a Gra tia _____ ple na

Musical notation for the Ave Maria melody and full accompaniment. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time with lyrics: "A ve _____ Ma ri a Gra tia _____ ple na". The bottom staff shows the full accompaniment, including the triads and a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Labels "Sing/Hum" and "Play" are placed below the respective staves.