

TRIADS

Name _____

A **chord** is two or more notes played at the same time. It is easy to play chords on the piano or guitar, but violists don't play them as often. It is easier for us to play one note at a time.

An **arpeggio** is a broken chord, meaning the notes are broken up and played one at a time.

A **triad** is a three-note chord, with each note spaced a 3rd apart. The notes can be **blocked** (played at the same time, like a chord) or **broken** (played one at a time, like an arpeggio). To identify a triad, look for the intervals between the notes, to make sure they are all 3^{rds}.

Blocked Triads (Chords)

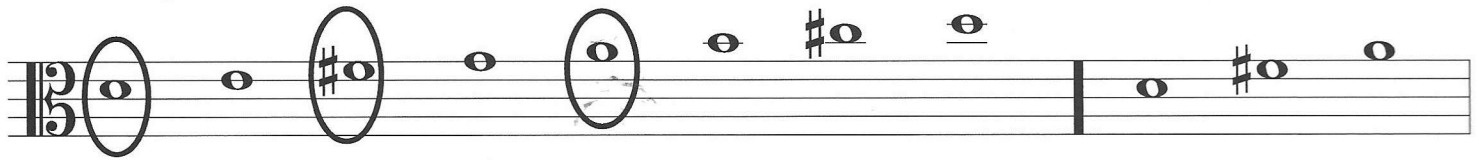
Broken Triads (Arpeggios)



A **major triad** is made up of the 1st, 3rd, and 5th notes of a major scale. To find the notes in a major triad, first think of how many sharps or flats are in that scale, and then count up the alphabet to identify the 1st, 3rd, and 5th.

D Major Scale (1st, 3rd, and 5th circled)

D Major Triad



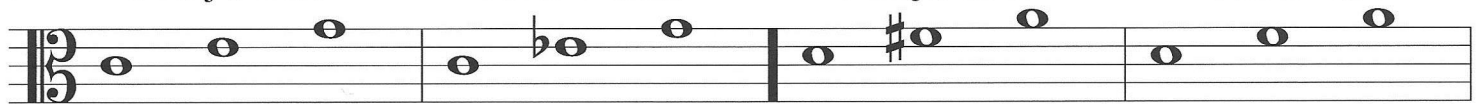
To form a **minor triad**, start with a major triad and lower the middle note of the triad (the 3rd) by one half step. If the 3rd of the major triad is a sharp, it becomes a natural. If the 3rd of the major triad is a natural, it becomes a flat.

C Major Triad

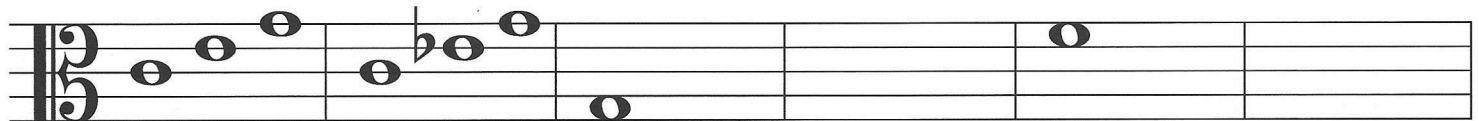
C Minor Triad

D Major Triad

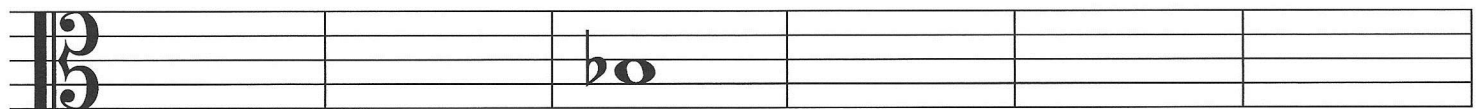
D Minor Triad



1. Write a broken triad in each measure, following the examples shown. (10 points)



C Major Triad C Minor Triad G Major Triad G Minor Triad F Major Triad F Minor Triad



D Major Triad D Minor Triad B \flat Major Triad B \flat Minor Triad C Major Triad C Minor Triad