Chapter 9
Fingering

9.1 Introduction

You have already learned that the seven octave marks in braille music are brailled in the right-hand side of the cell, immediately preceding the affected note. Representing the printed numerals for fingering, the five finger marks in braille music are brailled in the left-hand side of the cell, immediately after the note. The formation of the five finger marks mirrors the formation of the first five octave marks.

Finger numbers in printed music may refer to different fingers according to the intended instrument. The numeral 1, for instance, refers to the thumb in keyboard music but the index finger in music for bowed string instruments. Regardless of such differences, the braille finger marks are always transcribed according to the printed numbers. The examples, drills, and exercises in this chapter are for keyboard music. MBC-2015 includes special instructions for guitar and bowed string instruments.

9.2 The Five Finger Marks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fingers:</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marks:</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
<td>:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The finger mark is transcribed immediately after the affected note. If the note is dotted, the finger mark is transcribed after the dot. If the note is tied, the finger mark is transcribed before the tie.

Example 9.2.1

Example 9.2.2

Example 9.2.3
Finger marks in printed music are shown below, above, or beside the note according to the publisher’s convenience. This variation has no effect on the performance of the music and is therefore disregarded in braille transcription.

9.3 Change of Fingering

To show a change of fingering on a note, transcribe dots 14 between the two finger marks, with no space among the three signs. The finger mark on the left-hand side in print is brailled first.

Example 9.3.1
a.  
\[ \text{\textbf{Example 9.3.1}} \]

\[ \text{\textbf{Example 9.3.1}} \]

b.  

\[ \text{\textbf{Example 9.3.1}} \]

9.4 Alternative Fingering

If alternative fingerings are shown, braille them consecutively after the note, with no symbol or space between them. You as the transcriber must decide whether to braille the upper or lower fingering first. Once you have made that decision, adhere to it throughout the transcription. Refer to MBC-2015, Section 15.4, regarding use of a place-marker when one of the alternatives is omitted during a sequence of alternative fingerings.

Example 9.4.1  

Example 9.4.2

Example 9.4.3

or

Example 9.4.3

or
9.5 Order of Signs

To be correctly interpreted by the braille reader, braille music symbols must be transcribed in a definite order and must be appropriately placed before or after the note. For the signs that you have learned so far, the correct order is as follows:

**Preceding the note:**
- accidental
- octave mark

**Following the note:**
- dot
- finger mark
- tie
- double bar

Note: Starting with this chapter, there will be some drills and exercises in which the transcriber has a choice between equally correct details within a transcription. For instance, alternate fingerings may be shown lower-number-first or upper-number-first, but should be consistent for each individual drill or exercise. The solutions given for the drills are not necessarily the only correct answers.

**Drills for Chapter 9**

(Correct transcriptions of these drills are at the end of this chapter)

Drill 9.1

*Allegretto*

Drill 9.2

*Adagio e molto legato*
Exercises for Chapter 9
(Submit the following exercises to your instructor in BRF file format)

Exercise 9.1

Grazioso

Drill 9.3

Moderato

Drill 9.4

Not too fast (\( \text{\textbf{4}} = 100 \))

Drill 9.5

Lightly, almost in one
Exercise 9.2

Con espressione

Exercise 9.3

Smoothly

Exercise 9.4

Moderato

Exercise 9.5

Allegretto

Exercise 9.6

Marcia (J = 120)
Correct transcriptions of the Drills for Chapter 9

*DRILL 15*
ALLEGRETTO: (Virus)
In the following exercises, change the lower
by accident. (Correct the)

*DRILL 16*
MODERATO: (Mute)
In the following exercises, change the lower
by accident. (Correct the)

*DRILL 17*
MOTTO: (Virus)
In the following exercises, change the lower
by accident. (Correct the)

*DRILL 18*
ALLEGRETTO: (Virus)
In the following exercises, change the lower
by accident. (Correct the)

*DRILL 19*
MODERATO: (Mute)
In the following exercises, change the lower
by accident. (Correct the)

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