

# Chapter 9

## Fingering

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### 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

<b>Fingers:</b>	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Marks:</b>	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤

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 9.2.1 shows a musical staff with four quarter notes. The notes are G4, F4, E4, and D4. Below the notes are the printed fingerings 4, 3, 2, and 1. Below the staff are two Braille cells: the first contains the Braille finger marks for 4, 3, 2, and 1; the second contains the Braille finger mark for 1.

Example 9.2.2

Example 9.2.2 shows a musical staff with six eighth notes. The notes are G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, and B3. Above the notes are the printed fingerings 4, 3, 2, 1, 2. Below the staff are two Braille cells: the first contains the Braille finger marks for 4, 3, 2, 1, 2; the second contains the Braille finger mark for 2.

Example 9.2.3

Example 9.2.3 shows a musical staff with three notes. The first note is G4, the second is F4, and the third is E4. The first two notes are tied. Below the first note is the printed fingering 1. Below the staff are two Braille cells: the first contains the Braille finger mark for 1; the second contains the Braille finger mark for 2.

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.

b.

### 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



### Drill 9.3

*Moderato*

### Drill 9.4

Not too fast ( $\text{♩} = 100$ )

### Drill 9.5

*Lightly, almost in one*

## Exercises for Chapter 9

(Submit the following exercises to your instructor in BRF file format)

### Exercise 9.1

*Grazioso*

Exercise 9.2

*Con espressione*

Exercise 9.2 is a two-staff musical exercise in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains four measures of music: a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The second staff contains eight measures: a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5; a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6; a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, a quarter note G6, and a quarter note A6; a quarter note B6, a quarter note C7, a quarter note D7, and a quarter note E7. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes.

Exercise 9.3

*Smoothly*

Exercise 9.3 is a two-staff musical exercise in 3/4 time, key of D major. The first staff contains eight measures of music: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4; a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5; a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5; a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6; a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, and a quarter note G6; a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7; a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, and a quarter note F7. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes.

Exercise 9.4

**Moderato**

Exercise 9.4 is a two-staff musical exercise in 3/4 time, key of D major. The first staff contains eight measures of music: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4; a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5; a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5; a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6; a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, and a quarter note G6; a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7; a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, and a quarter note F7. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes.

Exercise 9.5

**Allegretto**

Exercise 9.5 is a two-staff musical exercise in 6/8 time, key of D major. The first staff contains eight measures of music: a quarter note D4, a quarter note E4, and a quarter note F4; a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4; a quarter note C5, a quarter note D5, and a quarter note E5; a quarter note F5, a quarter note G5, and a quarter note A5; a quarter note B5, a quarter note C6, and a quarter note D6; a quarter note E6, a quarter note F6, and a quarter note G6; a quarter note A6, a quarter note B6, and a quarter note C7; a quarter note D7, a quarter note E7, and a quarter note F7. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes.

Exercise 9.6

**Marcia** (♩ = 120)

Exercise 9.6 is a two-staff musical exercise in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains eight measures of music: a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, and a quarter note B3; a quarter note C4, a quarter note D4, and a quarter note E4; a quarter note F4, a quarter note G4, and a quarter note A4; a quarter note B4, a quarter note C5, and a quarter note D5; a quarter note E5, a quarter note F5, and a quarter note G5; a quarter note A5, a quarter note B5, and a quarter note C6; a quarter note D6, a quarter note E6, and a quarter note F6; a quarter note G6, a quarter note A6, and a quarter note B6. Fingering numbers are placed above the notes.

