

Appoggiaturas

The appoggiatura gained its name because of its shape: it leans on the following note. At first (early 17th century) it was thought of as a melodic decoration, but gradually an increasing importance was given to it as a source of harmonic enrichment.

The essential points are these:

- 1) An appoggiatura is a dissonant note: it makes a discord with at least one other note in the chord to which it is attached.
- 2) An appoggiatura is followed by the note below or above it. This note is the resolution and is one of the notes of the same chord.
- 3) An appoggiatura is placed on a stronger beat than the resolution for a strong – weak musical effect.

Identify the following appoggiaturas:

The image displays two musical examples of appoggiaturas. Each example consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 2/4 time. In the first example, the treble staff has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note G4. The bass staff has a quarter rest followed by a chord of I (C4-E4-G4) and VI (F4-A3-C4). In the second example, the treble staff has a quarter rest followed by a quarter note F4. The bass staff has a quarter rest followed by a chord of I (C4-E4-G4) and VI (F4-A3-C4). The labels 'I' and 'VI' are placed below the bass staff in the first example, and 'I' and 'VI' are placed below the bass staff in the second example.