Arpeggios and Chord Inversions

by Amy Sobek - Piano Teacher of www.AmysFlashcards.com

Lesson Topics

1. Breaking up a chord by playing the notes separately instead of sounding the notes simultaneously. The term for this is “arpeggio”.

2. Chord Inversions - This is when you play a chord without the root note in the base (the lowest note).

Root Position:	1	3	5	example C major chord		C	E	G
1st Inversion	3	5	1	example C major 1st inversion		E	G	C
2nd Inversion	5	1	3	example C major 2nd inversion		G	C	E

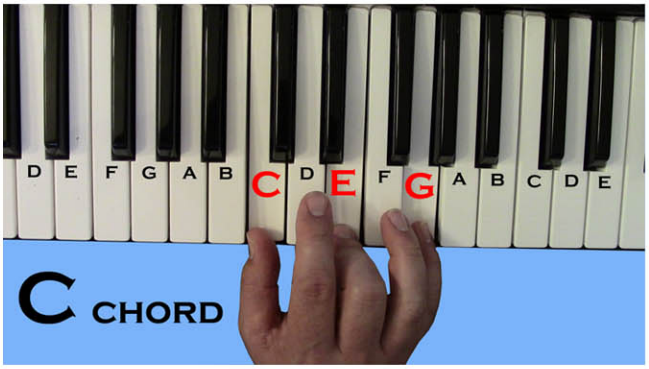
Below are the three chords that Amy uses to play, “Amazing Grace”.

C Major Chord

Root position

1 3 5

C E G

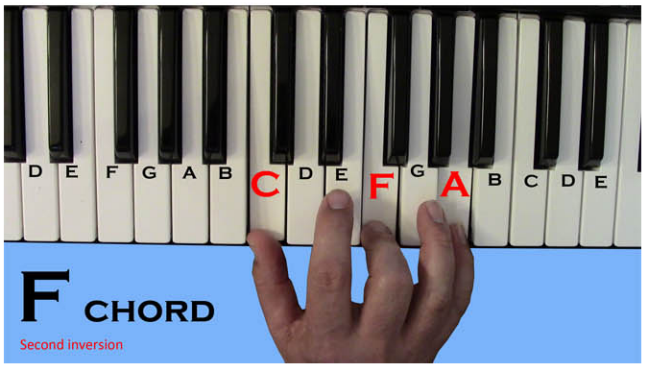


F Major Chord

Second inversion

5 1 3

C F A



G Major Chord

First inversion

3 5 1

B D G

Copyright by Sobek’s Services - Permission to copy is granted for home or classroom use.