Staff-jumping chords in PMX

All chords are made in the lower staff, so that the Musix\TeX ~command \texttt{\textbackslash prevstaff} can be used to change staff. When the notes in a bar are all of the same length, then one needs to adjust horizontal positions (e.g. with \texttt{\textbackslash sk}).

1 Single chords (bar 1 of example)

These are the Musix\TeX ~(type 2 inline \TeX) commands needed:

\begin{verbatim}
% Black notes
\def\cqn#1{\prevstaff\zq{#1}\nextstaff}\def\cqns#1{\prevstaff\sk\zq{#1}\nextstaff\sk}\def\cqnss#1{\prevstaff\sk\sk\zq{#1}\nextstaff\sk\sk}\def\cqnsss#1{\prevstaff\sk\sk\sk\zq{#1}\nextstaff \sk\sk\sk}
% White notes
\def\chn#1{\prevstaff\zh{#1}\nextstaff}\def\chns#1{\prevstaff\sk\zh{#1}\nextstaff\sk}\def\chnss#1{\prevstaff\sk\sk\zh{#1}\nextstaff\sk\sk}\def\chnsss#1{\prevstaff\sk\sk\sk\zh{#1}\nextstaff \sk\sk\sk}
\end{verbatim}

For usage, study bar 1 of the example. The second chord needs a \texttt{\textbackslash sk}, but the next one (on beat 3) does not, because it has a different duration.

2 Beamed chords (bar 2 of example)

These can usually be done in PMX alone (without inline \TeX). If the beam ends badly, experiment with the ‘beam up’ or ‘down’ command ( \texttt{\[u, \[l, \[ju, \[jl} ), as described in the PMX manual. Also, one often has to explicitly adapt height and slope of the beam.

Cf. also the corresponding ‘Comment’ on the PMX “Tips and Tricks” WEB page:

\url{http://icking-music-archive.org/software/pmxtricks/tricks.html}

3 Last chord in a beam in lower staff only (bar 3 of example)

The problem here is that the beam lacks an ‘anchor’ note in the top staff. The problem can be solved, however, by using a ‘phantom note’ (more precisely: by giving an ‘anchor’ note, and then using a mechanism to ‘erase’ it again):

Define first: \texttt{\let\qbsav\qb}. Then before the note to be removed, add (the Type 1 inline \TeX command)

\begin{verbatim}
\def\qb#1#2{\let\qb\qbsav\qb{#1}{\tilde{}}}\def\qb#1#2{\let\qb\qbsav\qb{#1}{\tilde{}}}
\end{verbatim}

In bar 3 this is the phantom b in the last sixteenth of beat 2. The slur shows that the note is actually there (and with the PMX MIDI option it can actually be heard).

4 Shifted chords (bars 4,5 of example)

Sometimes there is a problem with the desired horizontal position of several chords in the same staff. In bar 5 the shift caused by the arpeggio (cf. bar 4) is corrected manually (with a PMX hard space).

5 Example

\begin{verbatim}
% Andre Van Ryckeghem, 9 Mar 2005)
\end{verbatim}