The Brodhead Method of Chord Construction

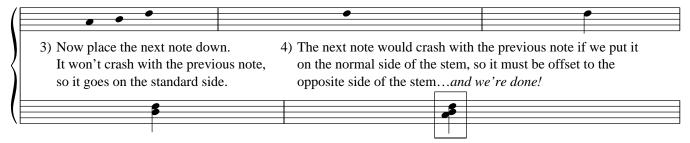
A simple procedure for writing chords with 2nds correctly each and every time

- 1) First determine the stem direction of the chord—will it be upstemmed or downstemmed?
- 2) If the chord is *DOWNSTEMMED*, start with the *TOP* note and work *DOWNWARD*
- 3) If the chord is UPSTEMMED, start with the BOTTOM note and work UPWARD
- 4) Write each note on the normal side of the stem, *UNLESS IT WILL CRASH WITH THE PREVIOUS NOTE*, in which case offset it to the *OPPOSITE* side of the stem.
- 5) That's all there is to it!

For example, let's take these notes and stem them with a downstem.

- 1) Because the chord will be downstemmed, we start with the top note and work downward, so first draw the top note.
- 2) CRUCIAL CONCEPT:

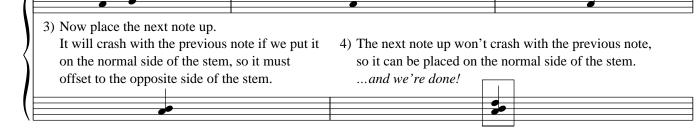
The first note will NEVER be offset, so draw its stem on the correct / standard side of the note



Now let's stem the same notes with an upstem.

- 1) Because the chord will be upstemmed, we start with the bottom note and work upward, so first draw the bottom note.
- 2) CRUCIAL CONCEPT:

The first note will NEVER be offset, so draw its stem on the correct / standard side of the note



A FEW MORE EXAMPLES

