

Blocks

Dennis Farmer

The musical score for 'Blocks' is written in 4/4 time and consists of three staves of chords. The first staff contains four measures: Gmaj7, Gbmin7, Amin7b5, and Gbmaj9. The second staff contains four measures: BMaj9, AMaj9, EMaj7, and Gbmaj9. The third staff contains three measures: BMaj9, AMaj9, and DMaj7. Each chord is represented by a block of notes on a staff, with the chord name written above it.

Notes:

This will serve as our primary 4 mallet exercise, and as the season continues, we will adapt this exercise with variations based on the demands of the show music. Focus on understanding the motion needed for each chord transition. The goal is to have a consistent sound throughout; keep an eye out for bar zones and body position between chords.

Stock Variations:

4+1 3+2 Outs to Ins (outside mallets followed by insides, played as double stop 8th notes)
 4132 (Outs to Ins alternating)
 123 234 ("Steven's Perm")

Some handy chord notation tips:

Major triad: 1 3 5

example: Cmaj: C E G

Minor triad: 1 b3 5

example: Cmin: C Eb G

maj7: Major triad + major 7th

example: Cmaj7: C E G B

min7: Minor triad + minor 7th

example: Cmin7: C Eb G Bb

maj9: maj7 + major 9th (2nd)

example: Cmaj9: C E G B D

min9: min7 + major 9th (2nd)

example: Cmin9: C Eb G Bb D

(...)b5: flat the 5th scale degree

example: Cmaj7b5: C E Gb B