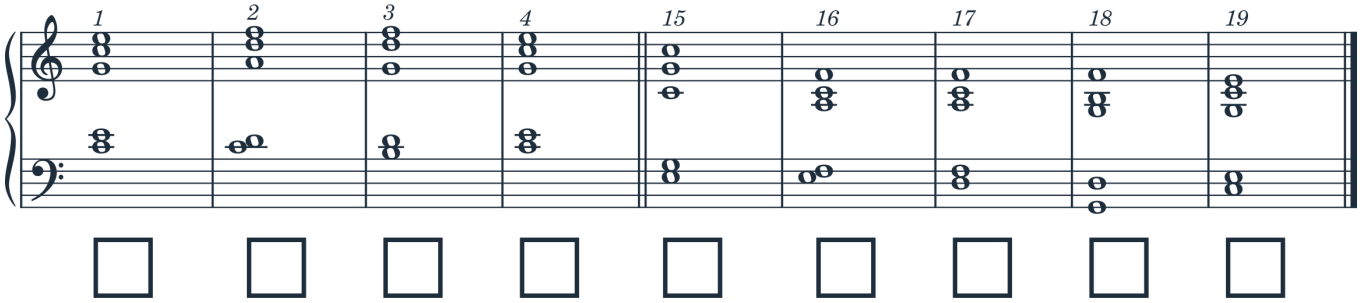
Analyze the Prelude in C

Every bar of Bach's Prelude in C is one chord, broken into a pattern (Handout 377). Here are 22 of its bars stacked into block chords, every note at Bach's own pitch. Name each chord in **C major**: stack the letters in thirds to find the **root**, write the **roman numeral**, then add the **figure** from the bass note. The small number above each chord is its bar in the piece.

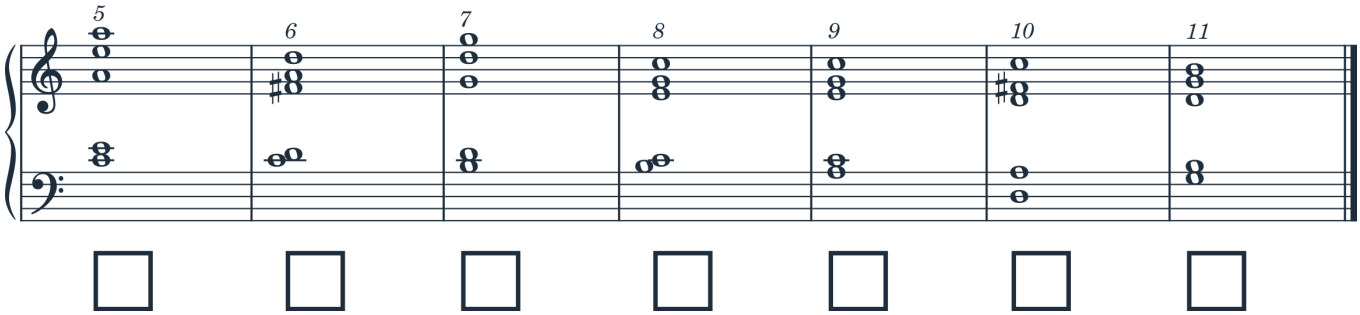
Triads
root in bass: no figure · 3rd in bass: **6** · 5th in bass: **6/4**

Seventh chords
root: **7** · 3rd: **6/5** · 5th: **4/3** · 7th: **4/2**

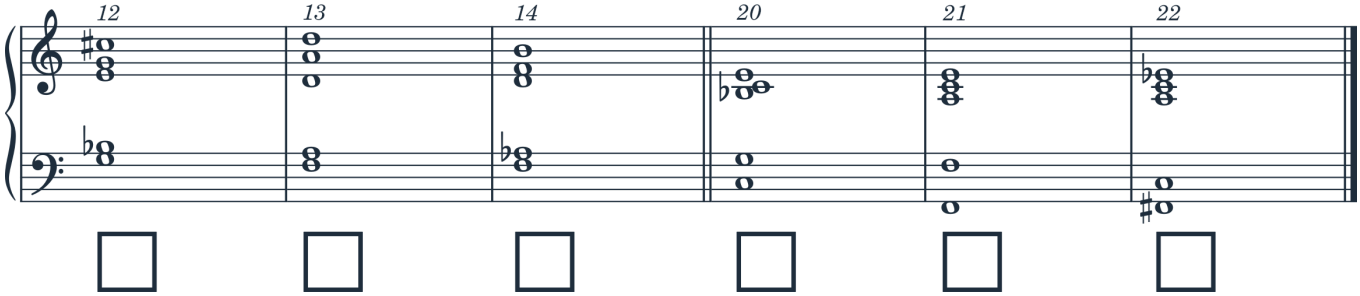
ROUND 1 Home bars 1–4 and 15–19

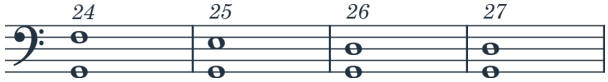


ROUND 2 The trip to G bars 5–11 · two bars bring an F♯



ROUND 3 Visitors bars 12–14 and 20–22 · four of the six bring a sharp or a flat





Bonus. Bars 24–27, left hand only. One note stays put in every bar (and on to bar 31): circle it, then name it: _____ A bass that holds still while the chords change above it is a _____ point.

Hint Collect all the letters first, then stack them (C♯–E–G–B♭, not G–B♭–C♯–E). The bass decides the figure. A sharp or flat the key does not own marks a **visitor**: a dominant 7th is the V7 of the chord a 5th below its root (D7 = **V7/V**); a diminished 7th is the vii°7 of the chord a half step above its root (C♯°7 = **vii°7/ii**, B°7 = plain **vii°7**). Handouts 210, 212 and 235.

Full sheet in our sheet music library: tissimo.co/sheet-music/prelude-in-c-major-wtc-1-bwv-846-1

Answers (flip the page): 1. I – ii4/2 – V6/5 – I | I6 – IV4/2 – ii7 – V7 – I 2. vi6 – V4/2/V – V6 – I4/2 – vi7 – V7/V – V 3. vii°4/3/ii – ii6 – vii°4/3 | V7/IV – IV7 – vii°7/V Bonus: G, pedal

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