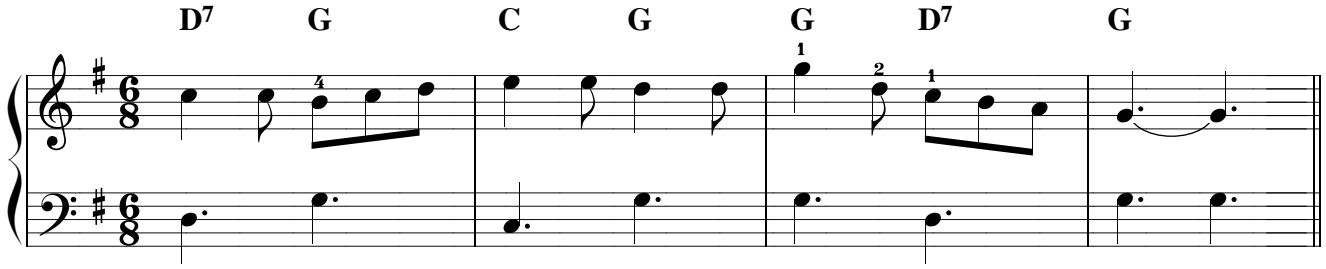
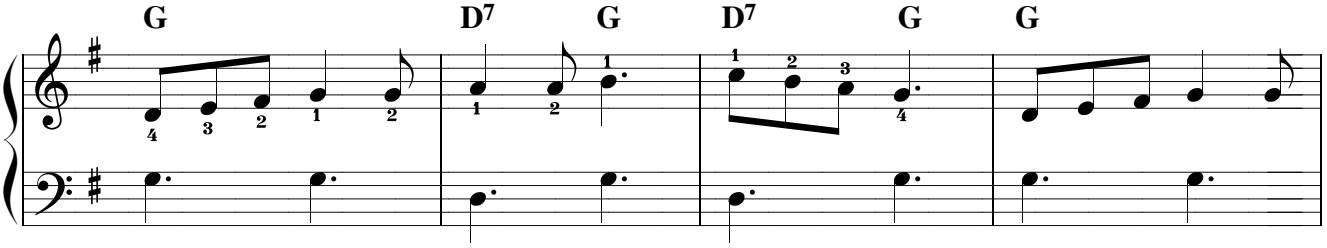
Three Christmas Lullabies

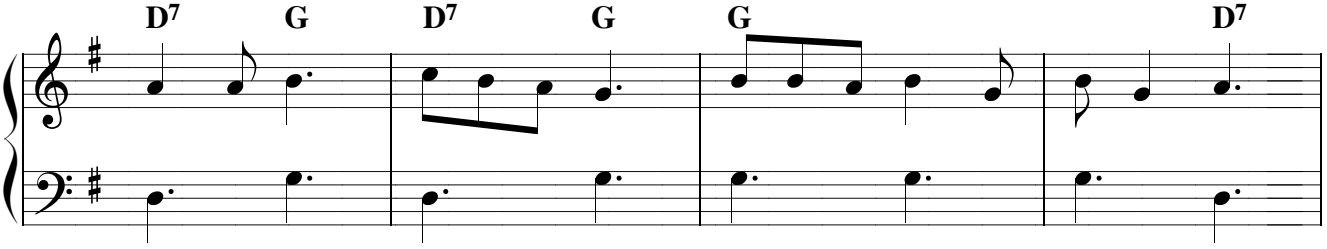
for small harps

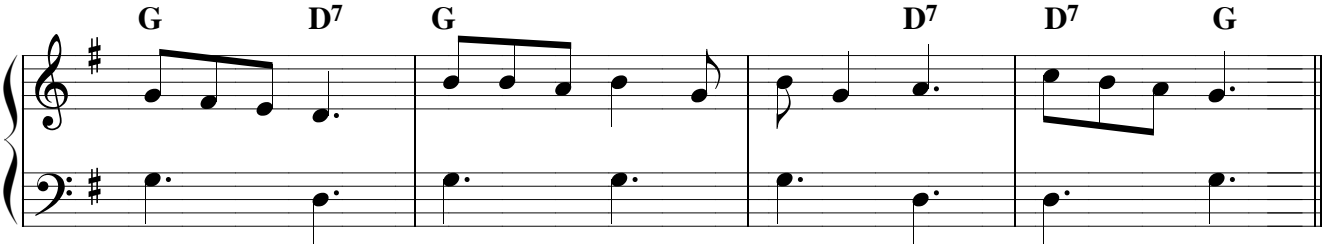
arr. Barbara Ann Fackler

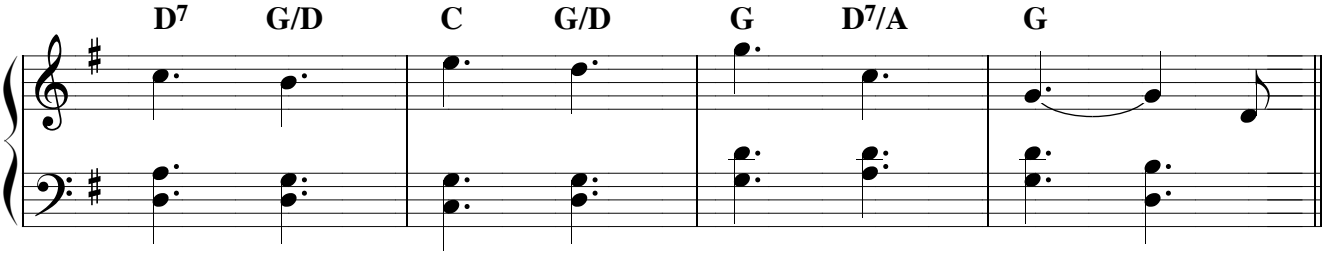


Chtíc, Aby Spal, Tak Zpívala (Sweet Mary Sings Her Babe to Sleep): Czech









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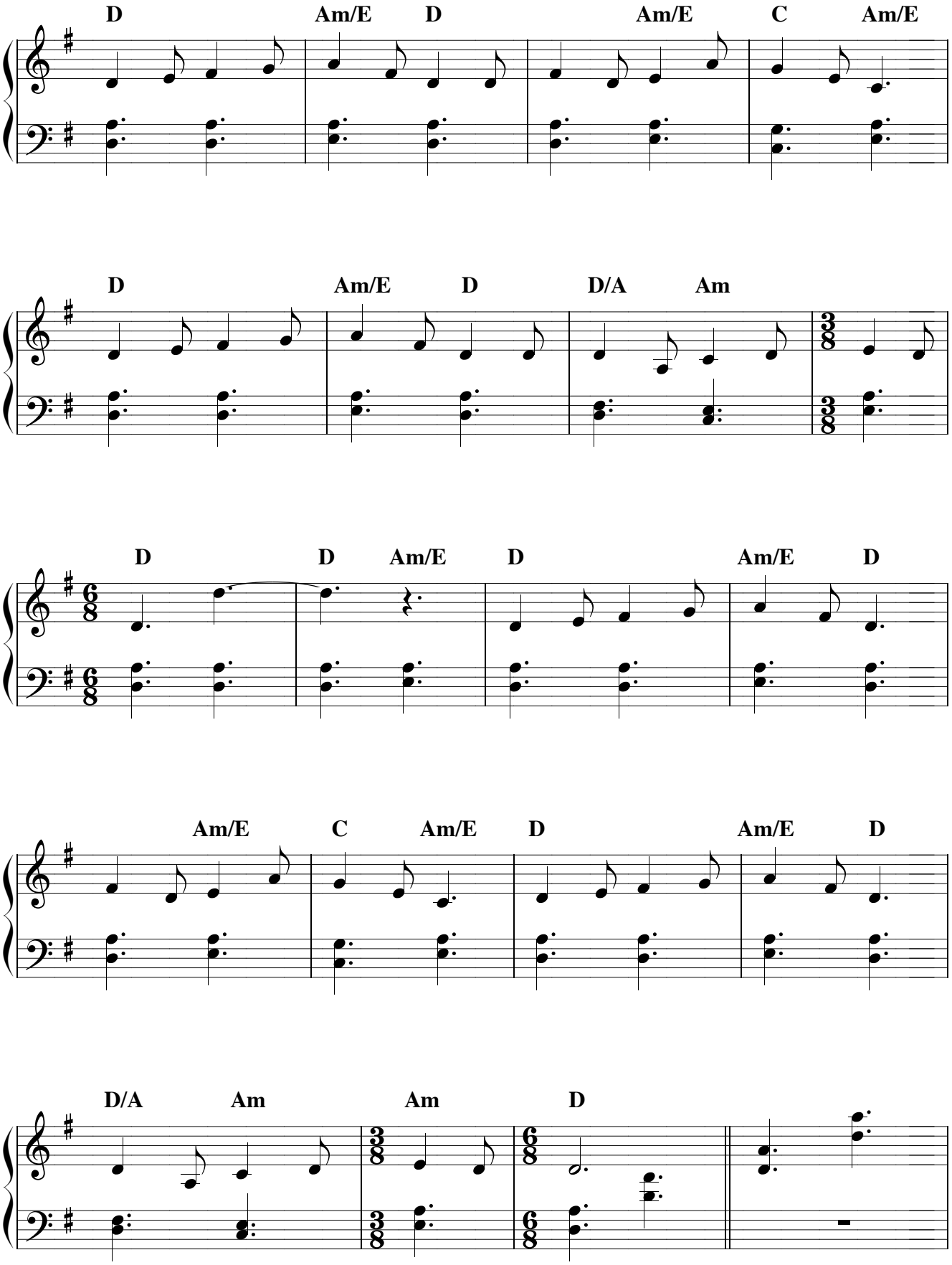
Christ Child's Lullaby (Taladh Chriosta): North Hebrides, a Marian lullaby often used for Christmas Eve midnight mass



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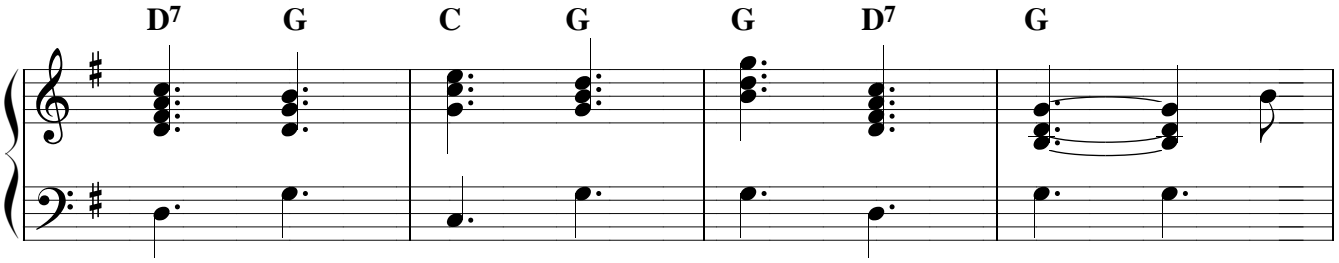
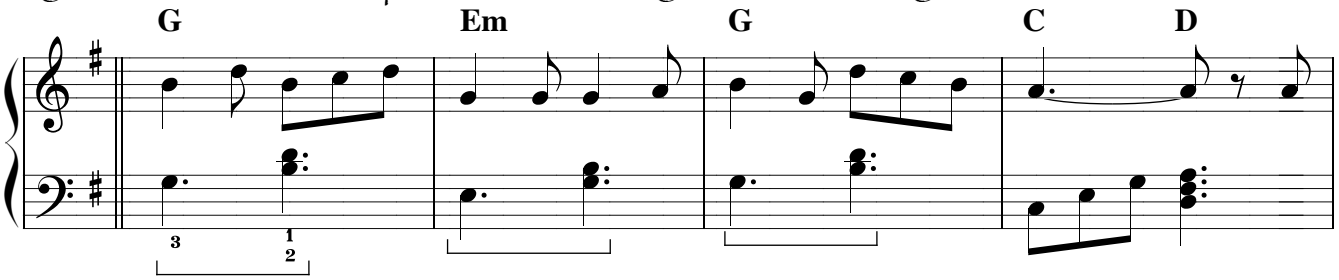
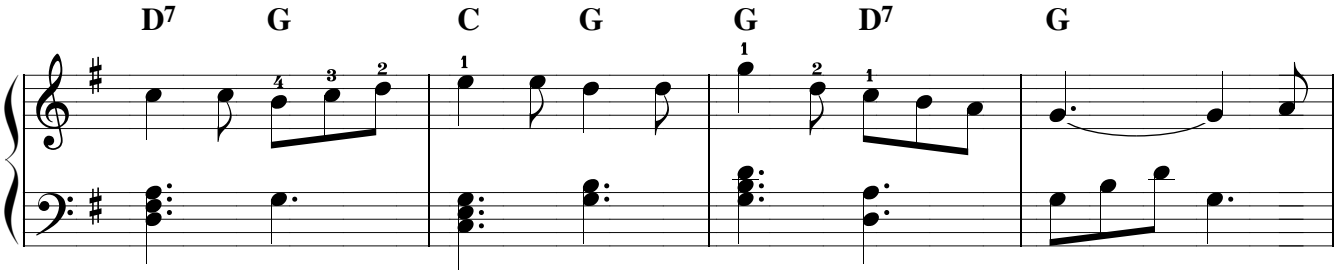
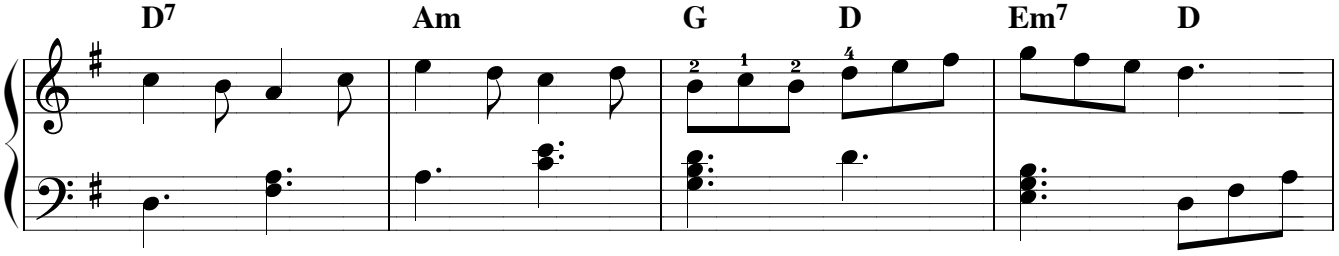
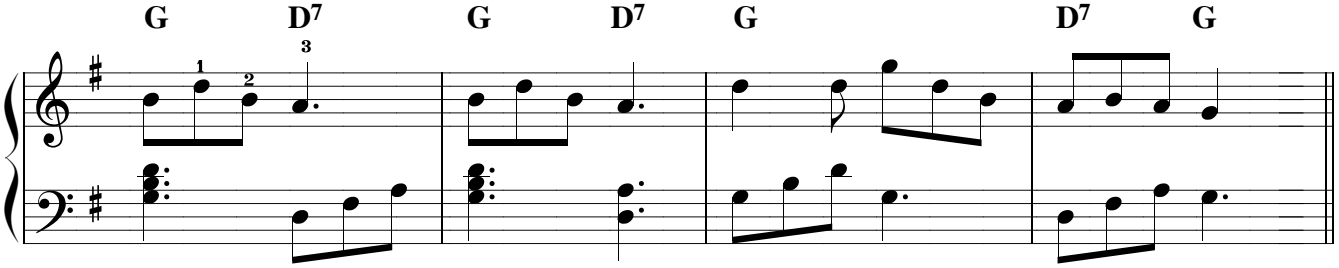


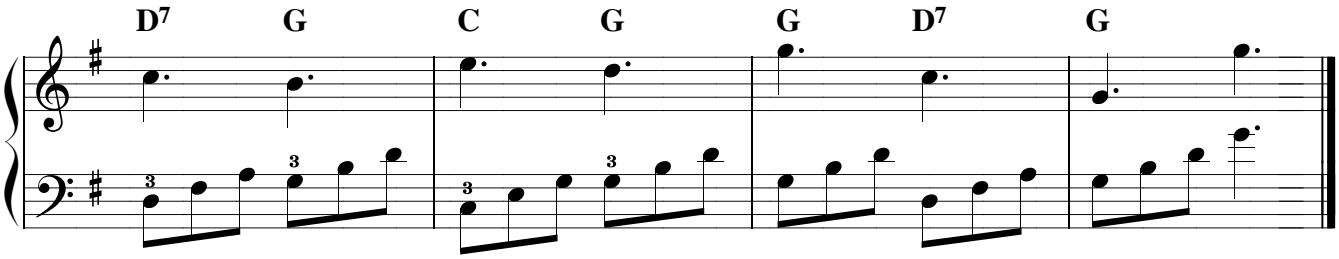
Wiegenlied Der Hirten (Shepherd's Cradle Song): Glatz Folk Song: C.D. Schubart 1791











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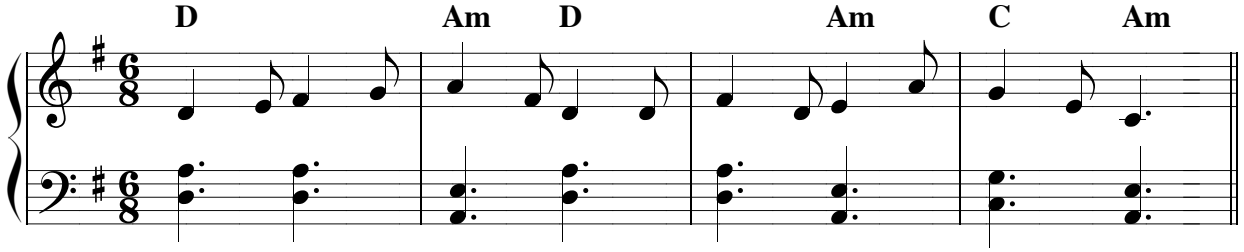
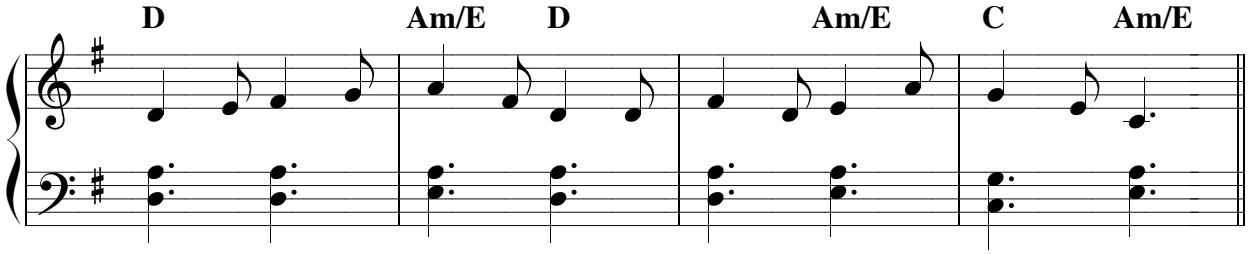
The Lead Sheet Tutorial that goes with the Christmas Lulllabies lead sheet deals with root position chords for accompanir patterns. The root of a chord is the bottom note when the notes are stacked in thirds. An inverted chord is one in which th root is no longer on the bottom. It is important to remember that as long as the harmony is clear, as much or as little of the indicated chord may be included. The accompaniment for *Christ Child's Lullaby* is lovely with the middle note (the third) of chords omitted. The first example illustrates the use of "enough" of the chord to give the harmonic structure, still in root position.

1. Christ Child's Lullaby with only root position chords



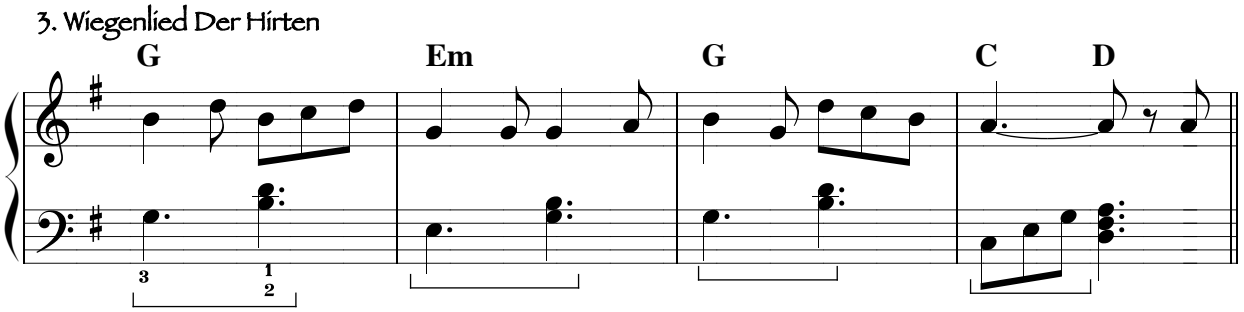
Because open fifths can become, monotonous inverting some of the chords is a welcome addition. The second example inverts the Am chords, and places the 5th on the bottom and the root on top. When reading changes, it is always assumed that the chord is in root position unless otherwise indicated. In the case of the Am chords, the /E indicates that E should be the bottom note. Study the two examples and you'll see that the notes used are the same in each example but the order is different. There is an additional version of the lead sheet with the inverted chords available for download.

2. Christ Child's Lullaby with some inverted chords



Another way to treat chords can be found in *Wiegenlied*. In the first measure of the last example, the root (G) is played on the first beat. The rest of the chord is played on beat four. Over the context of the entire measure,this still functions as a root position chord. If the LH places the whole first measure, the hand has placed a root position triad. In measure 4 of the following example, the root position triad is placed by the LH and each note played one after the other.

3. Wiegenlied Der Hirten



Remember, the changes on the lead sheet are your guide. While you must follow the rhythmic and chordal structure laid out in the lead sheet, there are many creative ways this may be accomplished.

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