

FIGURED BASS

- ① Bass notes plus figures = numbers representing intervals above a bass note.

Notes above the bass are diatonic (belong to the key signature) unless otherwise indicated.

$\frac{5}{3}$ = root position

$\frac{6}{3}$ = 1st inversion

$\frac{6}{4}$ = 2nd inversion

- ② The numbers don't represent a specific octave placement, voicing, spacing, or doubling; just pitch-class content

- ③ Largest to smallest, top to bottom.

$\frac{6}{3}$ (not $\frac{3}{6}$)

- ④ Abbreviations:

$= \frac{5}{3}$

$6 = \frac{6}{3}$

- ⑤ — indicates motion of upper voice(s) against a stationary bass

- ⑥ Accidentals modify intervals above the bass.
(i.e., changes to what is indicated by the key signature)

An accidental by itself modifies the 3rd above the bass
A slash ($\frac{7}{b}$) indicates raised by half-step.

An accidental on the bass note is not indicated in the figure