How to write chords from SATB (e.g. write chord in Big Hymn Book)

1. **Knowing about chords** (listed only more common ones)

   NOTE: M3 stands for the interval "*Major 3rd* " which contains 4 half steps;

   m3 stands for the interval "*minor 3rd* " which contains 3 half steps

   The chord usually contains 3 or 4 notes named *root, 3rd, 5th, 7th* (e.g. C,E,G,B)

   Major Traid: 3 notes - M3/m3 (the interval of bottom 2 note/ the interval of top 2 notes)

   e.g. C -> C E G (from bottom to top)

   Minor Traid: 3 notes - m3/M3

   e.g. Cm -> C Eb G

   Augmented Traid: 3 notes - M3/M3

   e.g. C+ -> C E G#

   Diminished Traid: 3 notes - m3/m3

   e.g. c dim -> C Eb Gb

   Suspended 4th: change the 3rd to 4^{th,} e.g. C is CEG, C Suspended 4th change the 3rd (E)
   to 4th (F)

   e.g. C sus4 -> C F G

   Dominant 7: 4 notes - M3/m3/m3

   e.g. C7 -> C E G Bb

   Major 7: 4 notes – M3/m3/M3

   e.g. C maj7 -> C E G B

   Minor 7: 4 notes – m3/M3/m3

   e.g. Cm7 -> C Eb G Bb

   Diminished 7: 4 notes - m3/m3/m3

   e.g. C dim7 -> C Eb Gb Bbb

2. **Write chord name for SATB** (e.g. Hymn book)

- Firstly write the strong beat's chord (usually 1st beat), then add the emphasized beat's chord (e.g. 3rd beat of 4/4)

- Take those 4 notes and arrange it to 3rd (e.g. C-E , E-G..etc) or 4th, omit the repeated note

- If contains all 3rd s, then it is in root position, the root (chord name) will be the bottom letter (e.g. CEG is C chord)

- If contains 3rd and 4th, then it is in its inversion, the root (chord name) will be the top of the 4th (e.g. from Bottom E G C, G-C is the interval of 4th, the top of these 2 notes is C, so it is C chord)

- If the notes contain a 2nd (e.g. GBDF), F and G are 2nd, then the root is the top of 2nd – G

3. Write Bass of the chord

   The bass (the lowest note) from the SATB will be written using "/"

   e.g. C/E (C chord, but the lowest note is E)

4. Side Notes:

- There are some complicated chords you may not get it, many times it is a suspended chord from the next chord. You may just write down the next chord and make sure all instrument players are in sync. However if parts are singing, then you have to play the notes as written in SATB