When a small note is placed before a chord, how is it played?

When placed before a chord, the small note displaces the upper note of the chord, and is played thus:—



ACCIACCATURA.

What is the acciaccatura?

The acciaccatura, from "acciaccare" to crush, is also a small note placed before a principal note; but it should have a dash across the hook of the stem, thus——X, to distinguish it from the appoggiatura. The acciaccatura is played so closely to the principal note, that the two are almost, but not quite, played together.



Are the approgriatura and acciaccatura always written as described above?

No; mode n composers usually write the appoggiatura (or accented note, not belonging to the harmony), as a large note, and take its value from the principal note; so that the acciaccatura is really the