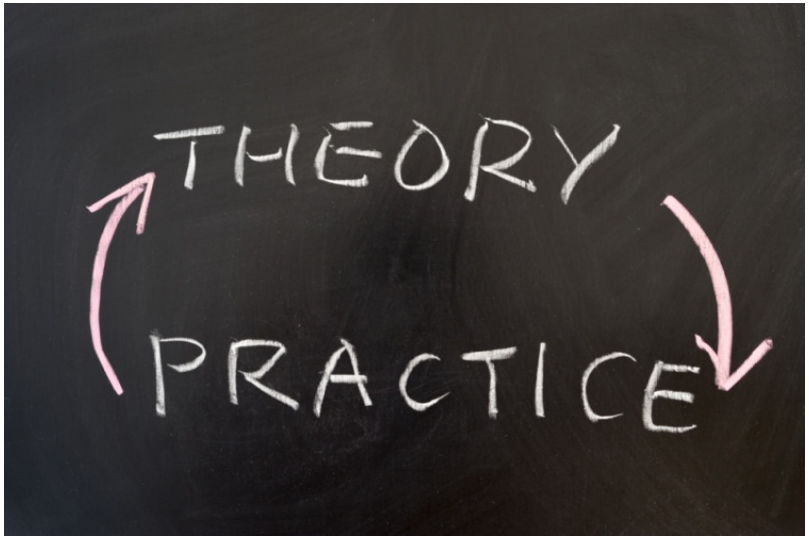


16th Century (Species) Counterpoint

~~12~~ 13 Nov 2018

First Species
Achievement Unlocked!

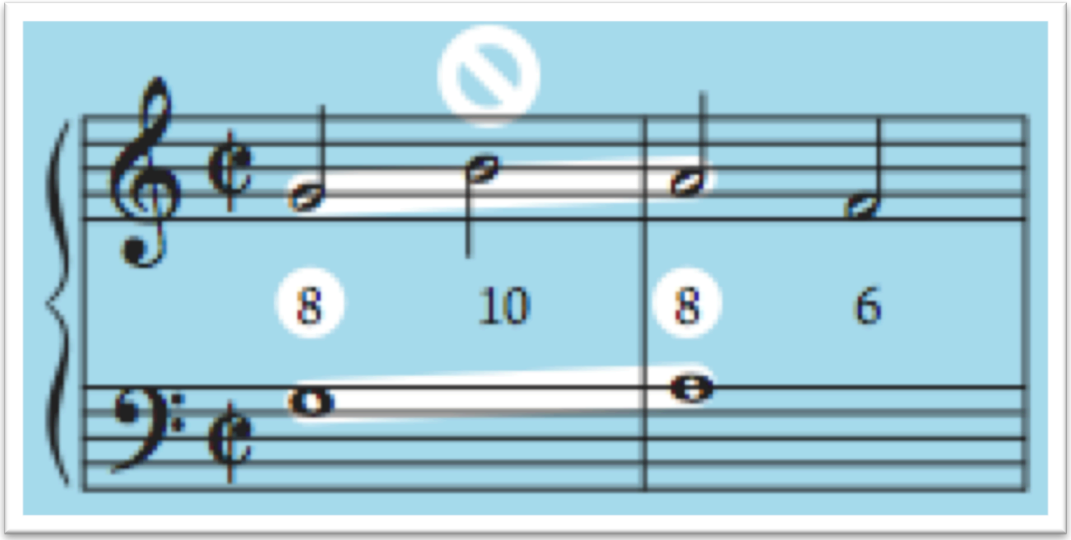
- Now that you have tried this, we can add **oblique motion**
  - When contrapuntal line stays on the same note above/below a moving CF
    - Remember you can't repeat pitches in your CF
  - Repeat only once (not three in row)
  - Be sure to respect contrary motion rules regarding treatment of leaps

Second Species

- Contrapuntal line in **half notes** over whole note CF (cantus firmus)
- RULES are mostly the same:
  - Start on second half note of measure 1 with perfect interval (start on tonic pitch if below CF)
  - Do not leap to a high note on the downbeat (shock!)
  - Dissonant intervals ok as **passing tones** only
    - Stepping up/down scale between consonances
    - Circle the dissonant interval numbers
    - Never leap to or from a dissonance
  - Unison can appear in middle now, provided it falls on beat 3
    - Careful not to cross or overlap voices

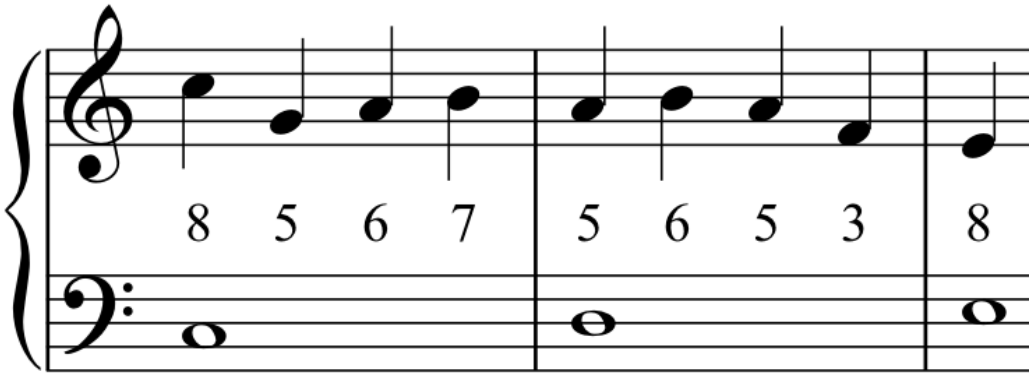
Second Species (continued)

- Treat those perfect intervals right!
  - If perfect interval on downbeat, approach by contrary motion, stepwise in at least one voice
  - Avoid parallel 5ths and 8ves on consecutive downbeats (and all beats in between)



Third Species

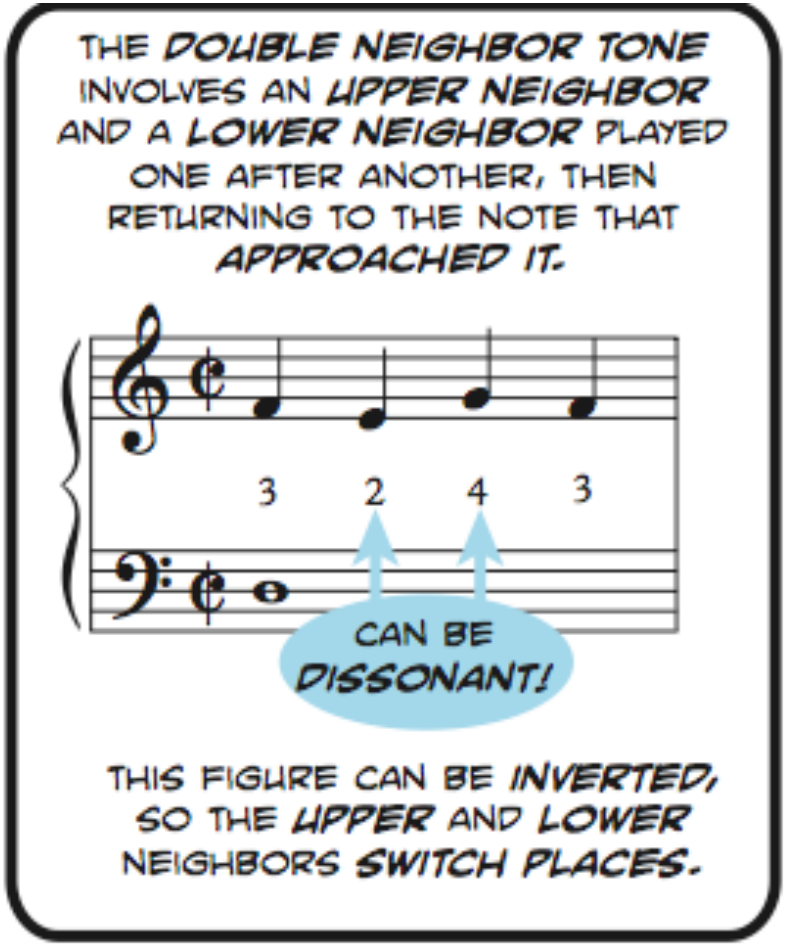
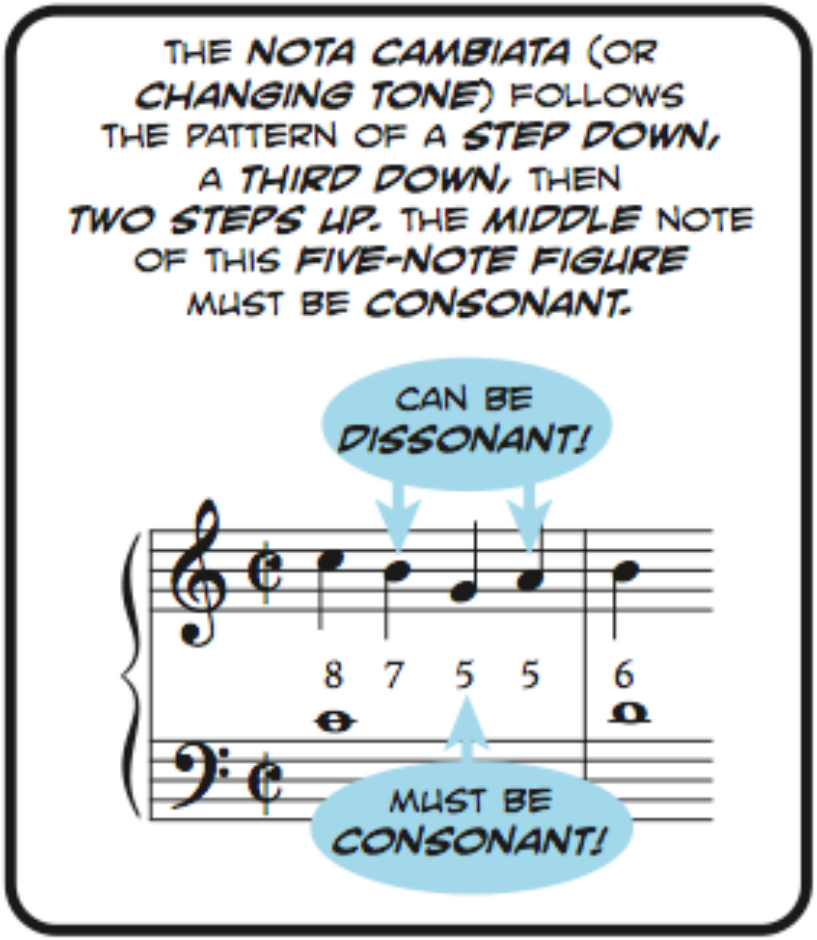
- Contrapuntal line in **quarter notes** over whole note CF (cantus firmus)
- RULES:
  - Don't leap more than once in same direction (consecutively)
  - All leaps >3rd must be counterbalanced by contrary stepwise motion on both sides (like P5th in 1st species)



Third Species
Consonance and Dissonance

- Downbeat must be consonant, always
- Beat 3 is usually consonant, too, unless it's the only dissonance in the measure
- Beats 2 and 4 can be dissonant as long as they are passing tones or **neighbor** tones
- Two special figures also OK…

Double Neighbor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