

# 16<sup>th</sup> Century (Species) Counterpoint

14 Nov 2016

# First Species Achievement Unlocked!

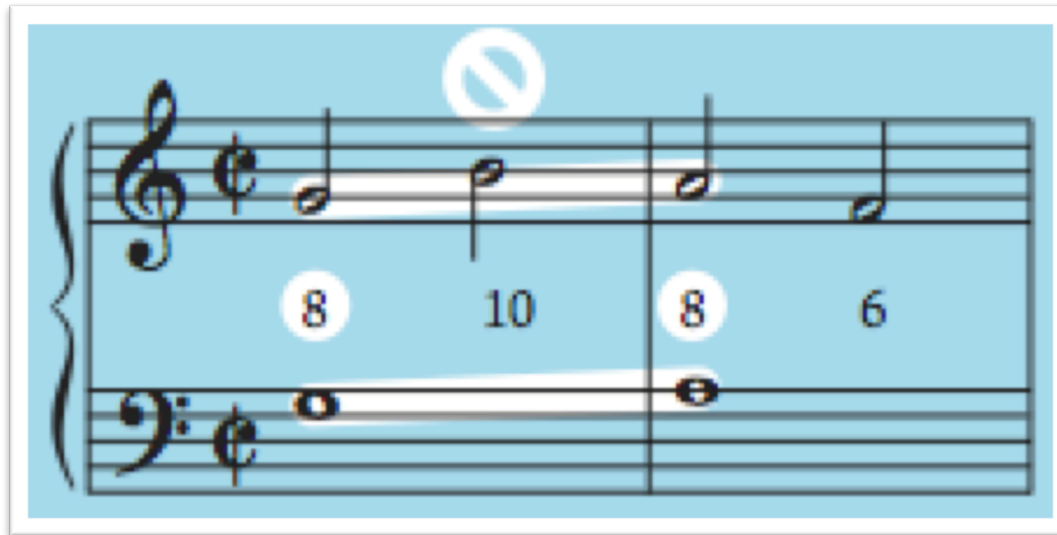
- Now that you have tried this, we can add **oblique motion**
  - When contrapuntal line stays on the same note above/below a moving CF
    - Remember you can't repeat pitches in your CF
  - Repeat only once (not three in row)
  - Be sure to respect contrary motion rules regarding treatment of leaps

# 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

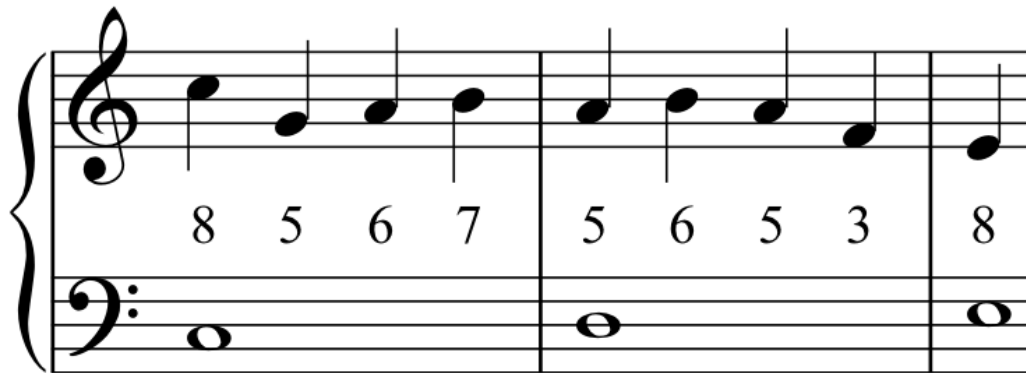
# Second Species (continued)

- 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  $>3^{\text{rd}}$  must be counterbalanced by steps in opposite direction (like  $5^{\text{th}}$  in  $1^{\text{st}}$  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

THE *DOUBLE NEIGHBOR TONE* INVOLVES AN *UPPER NEIGHBOR* AND A *LOWER NEIGHBOR* PLAYED ONE AFTER ANOTHER, THEN RETURNING TO THE NOTE THAT APPROACHED IT.

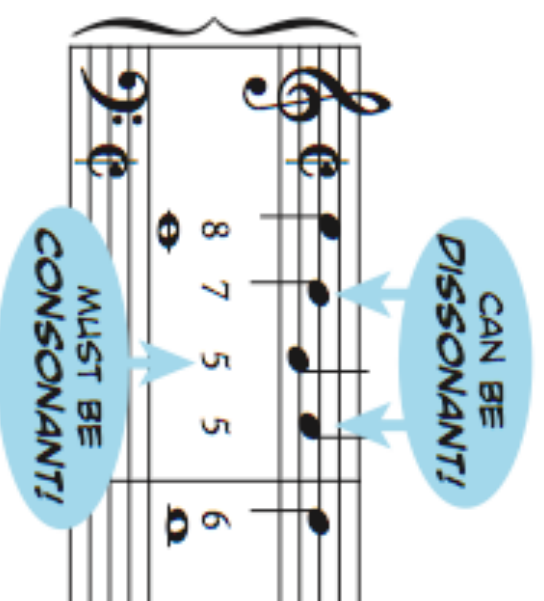


CAN BE  
DISSONANT!

THIS FIGURE CAN BE *INVERTED*, SO THE *UPPER* AND *LOWER* NEIGHBORS *SWITCH PLACES*.

# Nota Cambiata

THE **NOTA CAMBIATA** (OR **CHANGING TONE**) FOLLOWS THE PATTERN OF A **STEP DOWN**, A **THIRD DOWN**, THEN **TWO STEPS UP**. THE **MIDDLE NOTE** OF THIS **FIVE-NOTE FIGURE** MUST BE **CONSONANT**.



The diagram shows a five-note figure on a treble clef staff. The notes are G4, F4, E4, D4, and C4. A blue oval with the text "CAN BE DISSONANT!" has arrows pointing to the F4 and E4 notes. Below the staff, the numbers 8, 7, 5, 5, 6 are written under the notes G, F, E, D, C respectively. A blue oval with the text "MUST BE CONSONANT!" has an arrow pointing to the D4 note. A bass clef staff below shows a whole note C3.