



16th Century (Species) Counterpoint

15 Nov 2017

Fourth Species

- Written in **half notes with ties over barline** above/below the CF (always whole notes)
 - Creates **suspensions**: allowable dissonances on downbeat when contrapuntal voice holds over from previous bar (consonance = preparation) and CF moves to new pitch
 - Suspensions must resolve down by step! (4-3+7-6 above; 2-3 below)
 - Don't use the same suspension more than 3 times in a row
 - May “break species” and omit a tie if you're stuck (use rarely)

Fifth Species

- Contrapuntal line in combination of whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes over whole note CF (cantus firmus)
- Much more creative freedom to build a melody you love, but keep following the rules (treatment of leaps, dissonances, etc.).
- Whole notes only appear at end of phrase (kills momentum otherwise)
- Dotted half notes may appear on strong beat (1 or 3 w/tie)
 - Any dissonances must be treated with 4th species rules (suspension prep + resolution, both of which are consonant)
- Eighth notes only may appear on beats 2 and 4 as neighbor or passing tones (often embellishing suspension preparation)
 - Must be approached and resolved by step
 - Only once per measure
- Try not to overlap/cross voices