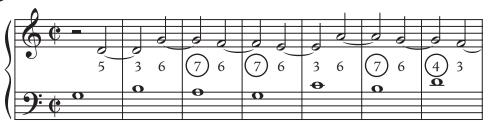
MUSIC THEORY FOR MUSICIANS AND NORMAL PEOPLE BY TOBY W. RUSH

## **Species Counterpoint: Species IV**



WITH THE FOURTH SPECIES, WE STOP USING SMALLER NOTE VALUES AND BACK UP A BIT TO SPECIES I. BUT INSTEAD OF HAVING THE NOTES MOVE AT THE SAME TIME, SPECIES IV INVOLVES THE VOICES BEING OFFSET FROM ONE ANOTHER.



DISSONANCES IN SPECIES IV MUST BE IN THE FORM OF SUSPENSIONS. A SUSPENSION IS A DISSONANT NOTE THAT IS APPROACHED BY BEING HELD OVER - SUSPENDED - FROM THE PREVIOUS NOTE.

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE WITH SPECIES IV IS THE FACT THAT DISSONANCES ARE PERMITTED ON THE DOWNBEAT. BUT AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT, THEY HAVE TO FOLLOW CERTAIN SPECIFIC RULES.

OH YOU DON'T SAY.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT DEFINING
CHARACTERISTIC IS THAT THE
SUSPENSION RESOLVES DOWN
BY STEP. IF IT DOESN'T RESOLVE
DOWN BY STEP, IT'S NOT A
SUSPENSION!



WE LABEL SUSPENSIONS BY THE INTERVALS OF THE SUSPENSION AND RESOLUTION, SO THIS ONE WOULD BE CALLED A 7-6 SUSPENSION.

IN THIS CASE, THE SUSPENSION
IS THE F ON THE DOWNBEAT OF
THE SECOND MEASURE. IT'S
PREPARED BY THE F IN THE
PREVIOUS MEASURE, AND RESOLVES
DOWN TO THE E.

BUT DON'T USE THE SAME ONE MORE
THAN THREE TIMES IN A ROW, OR
FUX WILL RELEASE THE HOUNDS.

SIMILARLY, IN
THIS EXAMPLE,
THE SUSPENDED
NOTE IS THE D,
WHICH FORMS A
FOURTH WITH



THE A. IT MOVES TO A C, A THIRD ABOVE THE BASS, MAKING IT A 4-3 SUSPENSION.

THE 7-6 AND 4-3 SUSPENSIONS ARE THE ONLY ONES FUX ALLOWS WHEN WRITING COUNTERPOINT ABOVE THE CANTUS FIRMUS.

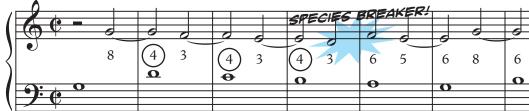
THE ONLY SUSPENSION FUX ALLOWS WHEN WRITING COUNTERPOINT BELOW THE CANTUS FIRMUS IS THE 2-3 SUSPENSION, IN WHICH THE SUSPENDED NOTE FORMS A SECOND WITH THE CANTUS FIRMUS, THEN RESOLVES DOWN TO A THIRD. (WHEN THIS SUSPENSION IS WRITTEN AN OCTAVE LOWER, IT IS SOMETIMES CALLED A 9-10 SUSPENSION.)

SEE HOW WE RESOLVE TO A LARGER INTERVAL, UNLIKE THE 7-6 OR 4-3? WE'RE BELOW THE CANTUS FIRMUS, SO WE MOVE AWAY FROM IT. BECAUSE SUSPENSIONS ALWAYS RESOLVE DOWN!



IN **SPECIES IV,** YOU'RE DEALING WITH A LOT OF **LIMITATIONS** WITH **MELODY** AND **COUNTERPOINT,** SO YOU WILL SOMETIMES GET **TRAPPED** IN A SITUATION WHERE **NOTHING WILL WORK.** WHEN THIS HAPPENS, YOU ARE ALLOWED TO "BREAK SPECIES": FORGET THE **TIE** AND SLIP INTO **SPECIES II** FOR A COUPLE OF NOTES.

FOR EXAMPLE, HERE WE BREAK SPECIES SO WE CAN AVOID WRITING A FUX-ENRAGING FOUR 4-3 SUSPENSIONS
IN A ROW!



DON'T GO CRAZY WITH THIS, THOUGH... SPECIES IV COUNTERPOINT SHOULD EMBRACE SUSPENSIONS, NOT AVOID THEM. IT'S BEST TO BREAK SPECIES ONLY RARELY. UNFORTUNATELY, SOMETIMES THAT MEANS BACKING WAY UP AND CHOOSING A DIFFERENT STARTING PITCH FOR YOUR COUNTERPOINT!