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

Species Counterpoint: Species II

SECOND SPECIES COUNTERPOINT ADDS A TOUCH MORE COMPLEXITY: THERE ARE TWO NOTES AGAINST EVERY ONE IN THE CANTUS FIRMUS.



FORTUNATELY, THAT DOESN'T MAKE IT TWICE AS DIFFICULT: IN FACT, MOST OF THE PREVIOUS RULES STILL APPLY WITHOUT ANY CHANGES.

THERE ARE ONLY A FEW EXCEPTIONS:

SPECIES I RULE:

SPECIES II RULE:

NO LEAPS LARGER THAN A PERFECT FIFTH*

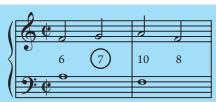


THE A IN THE THIRD MEASURE IS A NEW HIGH POINT FOR THE LINE, SO LEAPING TO IT ON THE DOWNBEAT PUTS A LOT OF WEIGHT ON THAT ONE NOTE, MAKING IT STICK OUT OF THE TEXTURE.

*EXCEPTING, OF COURSE, ASCENDING MINOR SIXTHS AND PERFECT OCTAVES, BUT YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT.

ONLY USE CONSONANT INTERVALS.

STILL TRUE ... FOR DOWNBEATS. FOR THE UNACCENTED BEATS, DISSONANT INTERVALS ARE FINE, AS LONG AS THEY HAPPEN AS PASSING TONES: NOTES THAT FILL IN A THIRD CREATED BY SURROUNDING NOTES.



OH, AND NOTICE HOW DISSONANT INTERVALS HAVE THEIR NUMBERS CIRCLED? NICE, HUH. YOU SHOULD DO IT TOO.

UNISONS CAN ONLY BE USED ON THE FIRST AND LAST NOTES.



UNISONS CAN BE USED ON UNACCENTED NOTES ... JUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT CROSSING OR OVERLAPPING VOICES!

APPROACH PERFECT INTERVALS USING CONTRARY MOTION WITH AT LEAST ONE VOICE MOVING BY STEP.

THIS RULE STILL APPLIES: IF YOU USE A PERFECT INTERVAL ON A DOWNBEAT, YOU NEED TO USE CONTRARY MOTION FROM THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING NOTES, AND AT LEAST ONE VOICE MUST MOVE BY STEP.



HOWEVER, YOU MUST ALSO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HAVE THE SAME PERFECT INTERVAL ON TWO SUCCESSIVE DOWNBEATS. THIS IS CALLED PARALLEL PERFECT INTERVALS AND IT'S GOING TO BE A NO-NO FOR A GOOD LONG TIME.

(IN FACT, IT'S ALSO NOT OKAY TO HAVE PARALLEL PERFECT INTERVALS FROM THE UNACCENTED BEAT TO THE DOWNBEAT, BUT IF YOU ARE APPROACHING WITH CONTRARY MOTION, THAT WOULDN'T HAPPEN ANYWAY.)

NOT TOO BAD, IS IT? YEAH! BRING ON THIRD SPECIES!