

## Music Theory III Counterpoint Exercises

NOTE: If you like how any of these exercises turn out, you can use or adapt them for Project 2

### Exercise 1

To each of the lines given below, add a second voice (either above or below the given voice). Start on a unison, octave or fifth (you may begin with a one-beat rest) and end on a unison or octave. Use dissonances where appropriate—the purpose of this exercise is to gain control of dissonance and to experiment with different contrapuntal possibilities.

Step 1: Use mainly half notes, with perhaps a few quarters. Write at least one suspension.

Step 2: Use mainly quarter notes, with a few half and eighth notes for variety

Four musical staves, labeled a, b, c, and d, each containing a single melodic line in G major (one sharp). The staves are arranged vertically. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff a: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.
- Staff b: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.
- Staff c: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.
- Staff d: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.

### Exercise 2

Choose a few of the melodic lines below. Add a second voice above or below the given line in mixed durations. Write it in the style of the late Renaissance. End on a unison or octave.

Three musical staves, labeled a, b, and c, each containing a single melodic line in G major (one sharp). The staves are arranged vertically. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are as follows:

- Staff a: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.
- Staff b: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.
- Staff c: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F#4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3.

d.

e.

f.

g.

### Exercise 3

Add a new voice above or below one of the melodic lines given below, using the same text. Imitation is not required for this exercise.

a.

Chri - ste e - - - - -

lei - son, Chri - ste e - - - - - lei - son.

Victoria

b.

Lau - da - bo no - men De - - - - i, Lau - da - bo

no - men De - - - - i, lau - da - bo no - men De - i

Lassus