

## Second Species

### The second species

- In the second species, **two** half notes are written for every one note in the cantus firmus
  - The first half note must be consonant with the c. f.
  - The second note is often consonant as well
  - The second half note can also be a dissonant *passing tone*
- Like the first species, it starts and ends as follows:
  - P1 or P8 at the beginning (or a P5 above)
  - P1 or P8 at the end

### Cadences in second species

- Like the first species, second species exercises end with specific *cadence formulas*
  - One of the voices ends with the pattern (3)-2-1
  - The other voice ends with the pattern (x)-7-1
  - You can end with a single whole note or two half notes

### Treatment of dissonance

- Dissonances can only be approached and left by step; you should *never* leap to or from a dissonance
  - Passing tones are approached and left by step
  - Neighbor tones and other stepwise non-chord tones are not used in the second species
- Allowable dissonances are:
  - major and minor 2nds (also 9ths)
  - major and minor 7ths
  - Perfect fourths
  - The tritone (A4 or d5)
  - Other augmented and diminished intervals are *not* allowed

### Things to avoid

- Avoid fifths or octaves on *successive downbeats*, since it has the effect of parallel fifths or octaves

- Unisons can occur on the second beat, but not on the first beat (except at the beginning or the end)
- Repeated notes and tied notes are not allowed in the second species

### Some basic melodic principles

- Here are some basic principles about writing effective contrapuntal melodies:
  - Melodies should have an interesting contour
  - Melodies should have a clear climax tone
  - Melodies should mostly move by step
  - A few well-placed leaps are effective
  - Large leaps should be balanced by a step in the opposite direction (Ex: leap up then step down)
  - Successive leaps in the same direction are rare, but when they occur, they should outline a triad
  - Melodies should not leap by a dissonant interval
  - Melodies should never emphasize the tritone