

Music 231

1st through 5th Species Assignment Requirements

Write ONE counterpoint exercise:

- It must be in a minor key
- It can be either a lower (bass clef), or upper (treble clef) exercise
- **You may ONLY use these cantus firmi from P. 11 of Salzer/Schacter: a, b, c, d, e, f, h, j, k (that is, NOT g, i or l)**
 - **You may convert a major key cantus to its parallel minor by altering the key signature (such as changing one from C major to c minor by altering the signature to three flats)**
- Don't make up your own cantus (or change the notes of one of the above), and keep it in the alto clef
- YOU MUST LIST WHICH CANTUS YOU ARE USING
- For an upper counterpoint exercise, there will be an upper climax
- Because it is a minor key exercise, you will need to raise the 7th scale degree (and the 6th scale degree if you are approaching the 7th by step from below) at the end just before concluding on the tonic
- Check out the *Species How To* page for more details

Allowances for "Melodic Imperfections"

In our studies, we have encountered many examples of species exercises that have their share of melodic errors or "imperfections". These might include unprepared or unresolved leaps, dissonant melodic outlines or misplaced climaxes. While some are easier to explain and therefore forgive, other so-called errors require, at the least, a very informed understanding of voice-leading to even possibly begin a reasonable explanation. Without that understanding, however, it is still possible to say that such examples at least "sound good" or that they are "singable".

Because even at the textbook level, these so-called errors make their way into examples, it seems only fair that homework exercises may have similar errors (on a limited basis) and still be considered worthy of full credit.

The allowance for imperfections in species assignments will be this:

- The imperfections will be limited to one per exercise.
- These must be limited to melodic procedures, and further limited to:
 - unprepared leaps
 - dissonant outlines (where one of the notes must be on a weak beat, which excludes 1st species)
 - a climax on the first note of an upper counterpoint exercise (4th or 5th species--but it must start on the 12th)
 - other melodic errors that do NOT involve a dissonance
 - While this is subjective, the exercise should still sound good and be singable

FURTHERMORE:

You must label the imperfection and briefly say why you could not avoid it. We will not "take away" one error from the pointing process if you do not label it properly.