

## How To Write A Species Counterpoint Assignment

- Species exercises should be done on staff paper in pencil.
- The staff paper should not have any pre-printed bar lines or clefs on it.
- Only use the following cantus firmi from page 11 of Salzer/Schacter:

**a, b, c, d, e, f, h, j, k**  
**(don't make up your own or alter one of the above)**

- Keep the cantus in the alto clef. YOU MUST LIST WHICH CANTUS YOU ARE USING.
- Doing an "upper counterpoint" means that you will write a species counterpoint line (in treble clef) above a chosen cantus firmus.
- Doing a "lower counterpoint" means that you will write a species counterpoint line (bass clef) below a chosen cantus firmus.
- If the exercise is "major", use a major key cantus firmus.
- If the exercise is "minor" use a minor key cantus firmus.
- Write in the vertical intervals between all counterpoint and cantus notes (just the numbers, not the quality of the interval).
  - Write them IN BETWEEN the two parts.
- Notate everything very clearly! Give yourself PLENTY of room in each EVENLY-SPACED measure to fit all your counterpoint notes.
- If you have any misgivings about how to set up your staves, bar lines, key signatures, etc., refer to the textbook, which has many examples of upper and lower exercises.