

MUS 231
Species Assignment
Allowances for "Melodic Imperfections"

In our *Counterpoint in Composition* textbook 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 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 two per assignment and they may NOT be in the same 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 the counterpoint (4th or 5th species--but it must start on the 12th)
 - other melodic imperfections 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.