

CHAPTER 4

Voice Motion

VOICING

Voice motion is generally described in terms of simple intervals.

INDIRECT MOTION

Indirect motion occurs when two parts move in dissimilar directions.

Contrary Motion

Contrary motion is indirect motion that occurs when two parts move in opposite directions.



FIGURE 4.1: Contrary Motion

Oblique Motion

Oblique motion is indirect motion that occurs when one part moves and another sustains or repeats.



FIGURE 4.2: Oblique Motion

DIRECT MOTION

Direct motion occurs when two parts move in the same direction.

Similar Motion

Similar motion is direct motion that occurs when two parts move in the same direction producing different harmonic intervals.



FIGURE 4.3: Similar Motion

Parallel Motion

Parallel motion is direct motion that occurs when two parts move in the same direction producing the same harmonic interval, without regard for quality; a major third to a minor third is parallel motion.



FIGURE 4.4: Parallel Motion

Indirect motion is generally preferred to direct motion.

OBJECTIONABLE MOTION

Some kinds of parallel motion must not occur except under appropriate harmonic circumstances because they destroy the four part texture: octaves, unisons, perfect fifths, and parallel dissonant intervals. Parallel perfect fourths are acceptable, but only in the upper three voices.

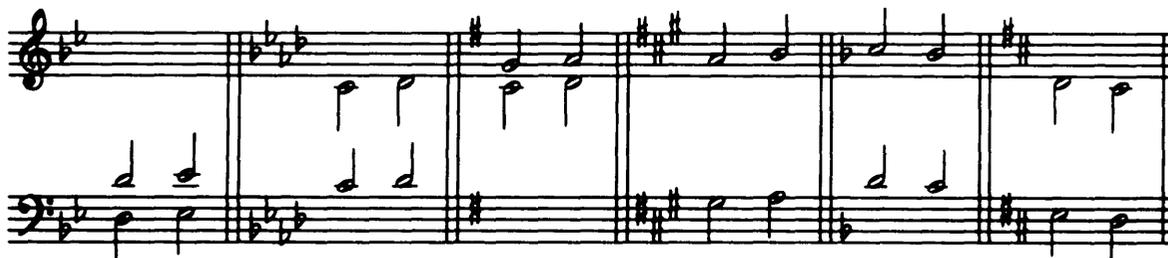


FIGURE 4.5: Objectionable Parallel Motion

When two parts move in similar motion to a unison, perfect fifth, or perfect octave, that movement is called *Hidden* or *Covered*. Hidden unisons are forbidden. Hidden perfect fifths and perfect octaves may occur at any time except between the Soprano and Bass voices at a change of chord with the Soprano moving by disjunct motion.



FIGURE 4.6: Objectionable Hidden Motion

Parallels by contrary motion occur when two voices move by contrary motion from one harmonic interval to the same harmonic interval. Parallel perfect octaves and parallel perfect fifths by contrary motion must not occur. An octave to a unison has the same effect.



FIGURE 4.7: Parallels by Contrary Motion

Crossed voices occur between any two adjacent voices where the lower voice has a pitch higher than the upper voice. Crossed voices are not normally permitted.

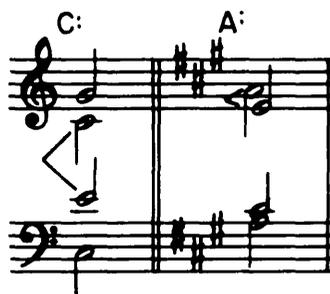


FIGURE 4.8: Crossed Voices

Overlapping voices occur in the movement of any two voices when: a lower voice moves to a pitch higher than the previous pitch in an upper voice, or an upper voice moves to a pitch lower than the previous pitch in a lower voice. Overlapping voices are not normally permitted.



FIGURE 4.9: Overlapping Voices