

Complete and Check the Counterpoint

Choose notes for an independent upper melody. Keep the cantus—the supplied lower melody—unchanged, and check the whole upper line.

1 · CHOOSE THE LOCAL NOTE

Circle A or B in each item, then write the chosen pitch in the blank. Each item is a separate three-bar fragment, all whole notes. Treat all three bars as interior bars: the opening/final-octave rules apply only to the complete line in section 3. Check spacing, allowed verticals, upper moves, fourth-leap recovery and approaches to P5. A fourth leap must recover inside the fragment. Check high points only in section 3.

1. Lower: C3 – D3 – E3

Upper: G3 – ___ – G3

A: B3 / B: G3

3. Lower: C3 – E3 – F3

Upper: A3 – ___ – A3

A: G3 / B: A3

2. Lower: C3 – E3 – D3

Upper: G3 – ___ – B3

A: G3 / B: C4

4. Lower: C3 – E3 – G3

Upper: G3 – ___ – B3

A: G3 / B: C4

2 · PLAN THE ENDING

Circle A or B. Lower line: D3 → C3. For item 5, choose contrary steps from M6 to P8.

5. A: B3 → C4 / B: G3 → C4

6. Which bar-7 vertical is required before the final P8: A: m6 / B: M6?

3 · COMPOSE FOUR MISSING NOTES

Fill upper bars 2, 4, 6 and 7 with whole notes. Keep every supplied note. More than one completion is possible.



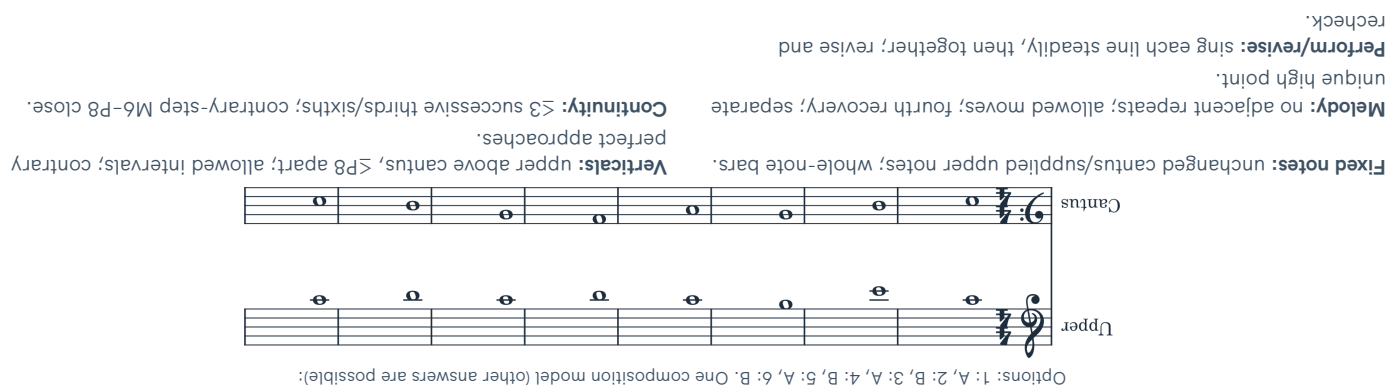
Our introductory policy (C major): leave the cantus unchanged; one whole note per bar. Upper voice stays above it, at most an octave away. Begin and end with P8; inside use m/M3, P5 or m/M6. No consecutive repeated upper pitch. Upper moves: m/M2, m/M3 or P4 only; after a P4 leap, reverse by step. Approach each later P5/P8 by contrary motion. Give the upper line one high point in a different bar from the cantus high point. Use at most three successive thirds or three successive sixths. Close M6–P8 by contrary steps (lower D3–C3, upper B3–C4).

P = perfect; M = major; m = minor. No harmonic fourth above the bass. This training policy is not a universal rule for composition.

Try it Write before opening the Reveal audio. Sing each line on its own; then hear the pair. Revise any note that fails the policy.



Listen: tissimo.co/worksheets/first-species-complete-the-line
Neutral piano · quarter = 80 · Reveal group: listen only after your attempt.



Options: 1: A, 2: B, 3: A, 4: B, 5: A, 6: B, 7: A, 8: B. One composition model (other answers are possible):

Fixed notes: unchanged cantus/supplied upper notes; whole-note bars.

Verticals: upper above cantus, ≤P8 apart; allowed intervals; contrary perfect approaches.

Continuity: ≤3 successive thirds/sixths; contrary-step M6–P8 close.

Melody: no adjacent repeats; allowed moves; fourth recovery; separate unique high point.

Perform/revise: sing each line steadily, then together; revise and recheck.