



COUNTERPOINT 2: TWO AND THREE PART INVENTIONS

Counterpoint is the art of combining two or more melodic lines in a musical satisfying way. The study of Counterpoint is an essential knowledge for student composers who want to strengthen their compositional skills, and it is a valuable part of their training. Even though the style of student's compositions may be far from earlier styles, the technical control gained in working with linear relationships is also essential for contemporary styles such as Rock, Pop, Songwriting, Film Music, Jazz and Commercial Music. The late Robert Russel Bennett, considered the top arranger for Broadway shows, once commented that Counterpoint is the indispensable element in arranging: if it's missing the audience's enjoyment of music will be lessened, even though they will not identify the missing feature. This course uses musical examples from Baroque to 20th century periods.

Most of the polyphonic music of Bach, and of this period, can be placed in one of these three categories: the **Canon** (learned in Counterpoint 1) is strictly imitative throughout, the **Fugue** has certain strict characteristics, but can be much more expressive because of the added freedom of the developmental sections, and the **Inventions** are imitative and developmental at the same time, are the least strict of the three categories and probably the easiest to write.

In this course you will explore Bach's Two- and Three-part Inventions (Sinfonias). Inventions are the least strict of the three categories and probably the easiest to write. At the end of each week, you will be asked to write a short piece of music and/or Analyze an Invention

The first part of the course begins with Two Part Inventions, and by exploring the 15 Bach's Inventions you will understand the different forms and you will write your own piece of music. In the second part of the course, you will add a third voice by learning and using different devices, you will analyze Bach's Sinfonias and will write your own Sinfonia.

Requirements:

- **Notation Software:** MuseScore, Finale, Dorico or Sibelius.
- **Textbook:** *Counterpoint* by Kent Kennan



PROGRAM COURSE

Part 1:

Lesson 1.- Motive, Countermotive, Exposition

Lesson 2.- The Episode

Lesson 3.- Form of the Invention: Sections, Counterexposition, Codetta.

Lesson 4.- Inventions in Song Form, Lyric Inventions

Lesson 5.- Writing an Invention I

Lesson 6.- Writing and Invention II

Middle Term Project: Invention

Part 2:

Lesson 7.- The association of three voices: Melodic and Rhythmic movement, Harmonic Content

Lesson 8.- Writing for Three Voices 1: Adding a third voice

Lesson 9.- Writing for Three Voices 2: Chorale Style Melody

Lesson 10.- Writing for Three Voices 3: Embellishing three-part harmonic sketches

Lesson 11.- Writing a Sinfonia I. Extended Contrapuntal Manipulation

Lesson 12.- Writing a Sinfonia II. Final Project