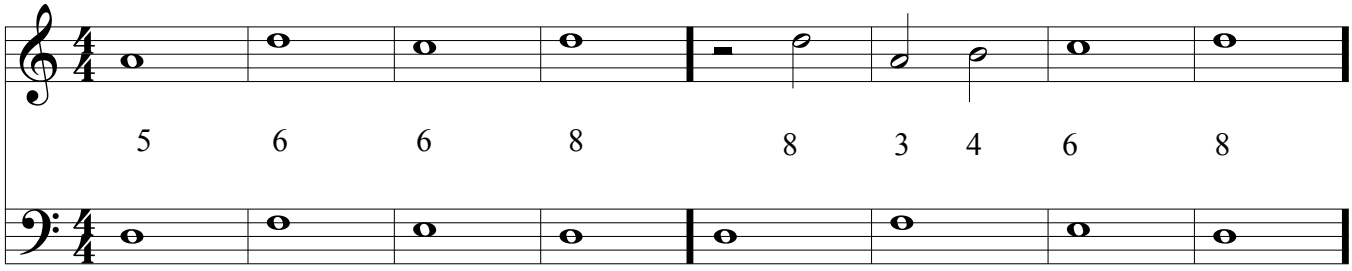
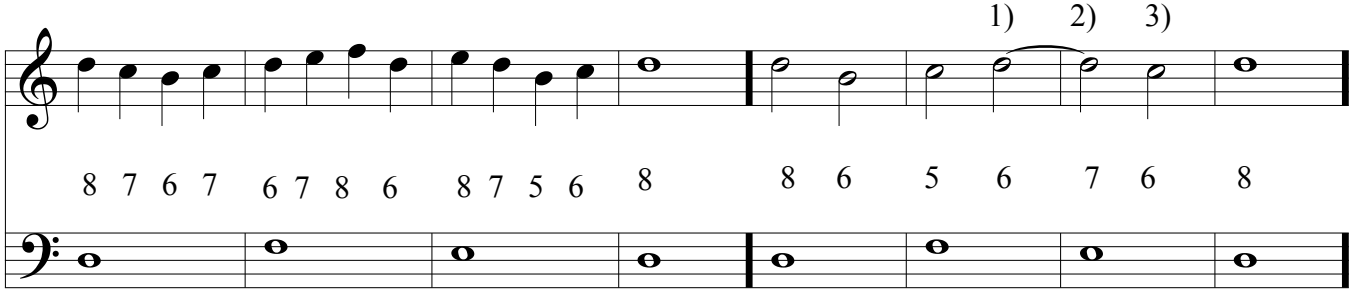
First Species Counterpoint: note against note; perfect consonances at the beginning and end; perfect and imperfect consonances between the first and last sonorities. No dissonances.

Second Species Counterpoint: two notes against one note; dissonances on weak beats only (see the 4) and must be passing--ascending or descending.



Third Species Counterpoint: four notes against one note; beats 2 and 4 can be dissonant and must be passing; if beat three is dissonant, it must be passing. EXCEPTION: the cambiata figure (measure 3); in the cambiata you leap precisely as below on the second beat away from a dissonance.

Fourth Species Counterpoint; two notes against one note--the suspension. The three elements of a suspension:
1) weak beat consonant preparation
2) strong beat dissonant suspension
3) weak beat consonant resolution