A COURSE OF INSTRUCTION IN PURE HARMONIC WRITING

IN THREE VOLUMES

BY

S. JADASSOHN.

Volume first: Manual of Harmony.



LEIPZIG, BREITKOPF AND HÄRTEL

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MANUAL

OF

HARMONY

BY

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TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN

BY

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REVISED BY THE AUTHOR.

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PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION.

The English translation of my Manual of Harmony has been made in accordance with my special wish, and under my supervision, by my highly gifted pupils Messrs. Paul Torek from New-York, and H. B. Pasmore from San Francisco.

It represents carefully and conscientiously the German text, as well as all the examples and exercises of the Original.

Heartily thanking the above excellent musicians for their industry and intelligent labor, I hope that this translation of my work will have a wide-spread circulation.

LEIPZIG, June 1884

S. Jadassohn.

TRANSLATORS' PREFACE.

A strong desire to make the English speaking public acquainted with the maxims and theorems of so eminent a theoretician as is our esteemed teacher, the author of the present volume, was the main motive for undertaking to translate his "Harmony", which desire was naturally heightened by his specially expressing the wish that we should be its interpreters.

We are convinced that, through its explicit treatment of the subject, and its clear and direct explanations, as well as the arrangement of the several topics, and — what is of greatest importance — because of the fact that it is written with special

reference to the capacity of the average student (as we had ample occasion to notice during the instruction of the different classes in the Conservatory), this text-book, with all these advantages, is far in advance of other similar ones.

During all the time in which its author was engaged upon the present volume, and the two that followed, we were constant witnesses of the enthusiasm, the conscientiousness, and the sincerity with which he pursued his idea; at his home, in class, in frequent walk and talk, we heard his views and comments on his work, at every stage of it; during long hours of intercourse, we have been enabled to become acquainted not only with its letter, but also with its spirit — all of which has, we hope, at any rate not lessened our fitness for the task with which he entrusted us.

With regard to the translation, we would merely say that, knowing the special qualities to be desired in the translation, as in the original text-book — from the standpoint of the student, as well as from that of the instructor —, we have, above all, striven to avoid the to us foremost error of stiffness and solemn mysteriousness, and have made it our constant effort to be simple, clear, concise, and to make use of as plain and general terms, as are possible in so technical a subject.

Hoping that we have been successful in our enterprise, we only wish that this book may benefit our countrymen to as great an extent, as it has already benefited the German student of musical art.

Leipzig, June 1884.

Paul Torek.
H. B. Pasmore.

PREFACE.

or concentration character, described like health and concentration of

Appealed to from many sides, and frequently called upon to make public the method of teaching adopted by me during many years of instruction in the theory of music, I at last came to the conclusion to have my experiences, gathered through self-study and through practice in teaching, published in the form of three books. At present the first appears under the title of "Manual of Harmony"; the instruction in Simple and Double Counterpoint, in Canon and Fugue, will follow as soon as possible.

It would lead too far if I should here indicate what new statements I have made both in the explanation of the chords and their connections, and in the method of instruction; this is clearly expressed in the present volume. Let me not however omit to call attention to the fact that examples are added in the appendix, which are worked out in accordance with the rules contained in the different chapters, and can be constantly referred to as a guide. Experience in practical instruction has taught that, in many cases, it is not sufficient to show the pupil the application of a rule by itself, i. e. apart from its connection with an organically formed piece of music, however small. The proper understanding of the rule is obtained more easily and surely by nearly every pupil, if he sees its application brought before his eyes in the condensed form of one or more small pieces of music The manifold and peculiar difficulties in the instruction of the theory of music almost demand such a proceeding. Whatever we call our rules, we deduce from the works PREFACE.

of the classic masters; but at the same time we find so large a number of exceptions to the rule, that the latter often seems to be quite doubtful to the pupil. Let us take but one instance. The pupil first hears that the seventh of a chord of the Seventh must resolve downward by a step. Soon after he learns that, in very many cases, it may ascend by a step, or be sustained, or enharmonically changed, or even be led by a skip downward to the tones of other chords. In consequence of this, there remains for him of the first stated rule nothing but the principle that the seventh is led downward a step, when the following chord and the correct leading of the voices admit of it. If the pupil were shown examples from the classic masters, in which occur in great numbers all the exceptional cases mentioned, provided the material for it were always at hand - he would, in the beginning, searcely quite perceive and understand these examples taken from larger compositions, and would possibly regard them as licenses which a genius is permitted to take, whereas these exceptions, just as the rule itself, are established in the nature of things. It is more appropriate, therefore, to place before the pupil the application of the rule and its exceptions, in special, suitable examples, even if such little pieces of music, worked out for definite instructive purposes, have not the value and the charm of artistic compositions.

I have given to the present first part of my work the customary title of "Manual of Harmony"; but in the book itself I have not used the word "harmony", but exclusively the term "chord". Experience in instruction also induced me to adopt this resolution. Before the pupil begins the study of theory, the term "chord" is known and familiar to him from the beginning of his practical instrumental, or vocal musical training. Everyone knows what is meant by this word in music. The term "harmony" is generally used in a different sense from that used in older text-books. It astonishes the pupil, that dissonant chords also are called "harmonies", — as for instance, the aug-

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mented and diminished triads, and all chords of the Seventh. It astonishes him furthermore that the term "harmony" is used only for the fundamental position of the chords, that their inversions, however, are always called "chords" and not "harmonies", while both expressions are used in exactly the same sense for the fundamental position of the chords. The words "Chord of the Sixth", "Chord of the Sixth and Fourth", "Chord of the Sixth and Fifth", of the "Fourth and Third" and of the "Second" are used as technical terms.

It is unnecessary to discuss here, whether, and to what extent the terms "harmony" and "chord" can be used in the same sense; my object is to present my text-book to the pupil — without any superfluous word-apparatus, and without any attempt at ornate and embellished style — as simple, clear, and comprehensible as possible. What is the use, then, of two terms the one of which, being strange and not clear to the beginner, is used in a limited sense, when the other, known to the pupil from the beginning, is sufficient for all cases?

And now a few more words to the pupil. Whoever wants to make the most of this book, must not be contented with simply understanding and getting acquainted with the principles and rules laid down in it. He must also know how to practically employ them with artistic freedom. For this reason I added to the book a very large number of exercises, which, in each individual case, rise from simpler and easier ones to such as are more complicated and difficult. Let no one be satisfied with the working out of some of those exercises; every one of them is formed in such a way as to make the pupil acquainted with the application of a rule in as many, and different cases as possible. Thorough and perfect knowledge of the chords and of their connections with each other, which is indispensable to the artist not only for his own free compositions, but also in extemporizing preludes and modulations, and for the correct and intelligent execution of the master-works, can be obtained only through

serious, assiduous and persevering work. Neither must the pupil be satisfied to regard these exercises for practice as dry school-exercises, and work them out merely from this point of view. Even here the talented student of Art finds opportunity to prove artistic qualities, such as delicacy, taste, and a striving after euphony and good melodious formation. For this reason it will often be well to work one and the same exercise several times, to carry it out in different positions, even where a definite position is indicated as being most agreeable and best adapted. Thus only will the pupil learn surely and perfectly to master that technique of chord-connections, which forms the basis of the contrapuntal studies, and of the whole technique of composition.

Leipzig, July 1883.

S. Jadassohn.

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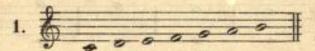
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PART FIRST.

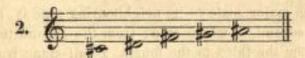
CHAPTER I.

Intervals.

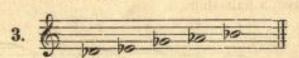
§ 1. All tone material which is used in music confines itself to seven principal tones from which are derived five secondary or intermediate tones. The seven principal tones in their natural progression form the Diatonic Major Scale.



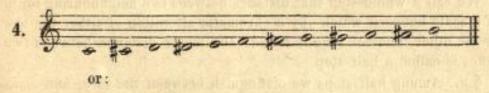
By raising the first, second, fourth, fifth and sixth tones a chromatic half-step the intermediate tones are derived.

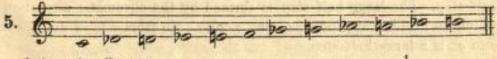


They may also be derived by lowering the second, third, fifth, sixth and seventh tones a half-step.



The twelve tones combined may therefore be represented in chromatic succession as follows:





Jadassohn, Harmony,

We take it for granted that the pupil already knows that other enharmonic representations of the same tones are possible. They are not necessary to our immediate purpose.

§ 2. The distance from one tone to another is called an *Interval*. Within the compass of the diatonic major scale we find, by measuring from the lowest (first) tone, that the next tone above it is the second of the fundamental, and is called the *Second*. Just so the other intervals are named, according to the degree upon which they are situated, *Third*, *Fourth*, *Fifth*, *Sixth*, *Seventh* and *Octave*. The fundamental itself is called *Prime*.



An extension of our measurement gives us the Ninth, Tenth, Elsventh and Twelfth as the transposition of the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth into the higher Octave.



The prime, fourth, fifth and octave of the major scale are called Perfect; the second, third, sixth and seventh, Major. The distance from one tone of the major scale to its neighbouring tone is, from the first (prime) to the second, a whole-step; from the second to the third, a whole-step; from the third to the fourth, a half-step; from the fourth to the fifth, a whole-step; from the fifth to the sixth, a whole-step; from the sixth to the seventh to the eighth (octave) a half-step.



Prime, Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Octave.

We call a whole-step that distance between two neighbouring tones of a scale between which (by a chromatic alteration of either the one or the other) another tone is found; the lesser distance between two tones is called a half-step.

§ 3. Among half-steps we distinguish between the large and small half-step. The large half-step is formed by the chromatic alteration which an accidental produces upon a note. So from c to c\(\pi\) and from g to g\(\pi\) is a large half-step.

Large half-steps.



Just so from d to do, from e to eq, and from g to go are large half-steps.



The small half-step exists only between two neighbouring degrees. Therefore the distance from c to d_7 above, from $c \not\equiv to$ the next d, from d to e etc. is a small half-step.

Note. How erronious is the contrary view expressed in older text-books that the alteration of the natural tone produced by a chromatic sign forms a **small** half-step to that tone, and that the minor second, on the other hand, forms the *large* half-step, is readily made plain to the practical musician by the different resolutions of the like-sounding chords f, a, c, e, and f, a, c, d.



The E7, being nearer to D, inclines toward it; the Di inclines to E.

Louis Lohse in his treatise "Wider die Neuclaviatur" (Musikalisches Wochenblatt 1883, No. 2) clearly expresses himself concerning this point. He writes "Surely the view that c—c; is the small half-step and c—d? the large half-step, does great injury. Really just the reverse is true. Taking c at 256 vibrations, the perfectly pure D? has 268,04; the pure C; however, has 2733/s.

The minor second is therefore essentially smaller than the augmented prime".

After what has been here said the natural progression of the leading tone, and also the natural resolution of all altered chords and of the chords of the Seventh is

easily explained.

§ 4. Those intervals found within the compass of the major scale which, by measuring from the fundamental, we called seconds, thirds, fourths, fifths, sixths, sevenths, octaves and ninths change into entirely different intervals if, by means of a chromatic sign, we either raise or lower by a half-step one of the two tones forming the interval. Thus the sixth C - A, according as we change the c to $c \nmid c$ or $c \mid c$ or the a to $a \nmid c$ or $a \mid c$, becomes smaller or greater.



This changing of the tones of an interval by chromatically raising or lowering one or the other or both, necessitates a more definite designation of these intervals.

Measurement of intervals upward.

§ 5. We have already named the intervals of the major scale perfect and major. The raising of the upper tone of one of these intervals by a large chromatic half-step makes the perfect or major an augmented interval. Thus the prime which in itself is not an interval, but a unison, when so raised becomes an augmented interval.

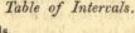


By lowering the upper tone of major intervals a large chromatic half-step, they become minor intervals.

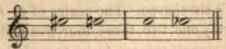
By raising the lower tone of minor intervals a large chromatic halfstep, they become diminished intervals.

By raising the lower tone of the perfect fourth, fifth, or octave a large chromatic half-step, the perfect becomes a diminished interval.

§ 6. Also by lowering the upper tone of the perfect fourth and fifth, the diminished fourth and fifth is formed; therefore the intervals c-g, and $c \not \models g$ are the same. Diminished primes and octaves do not occur in pure writing. Diminished seconds, sixths and ninths, and augmented thirds and sevenths are not used in the structure of chords.







Written in their regular order the intervals which may be used in the structure of chords and accidental chord-formations present themselves as follows:



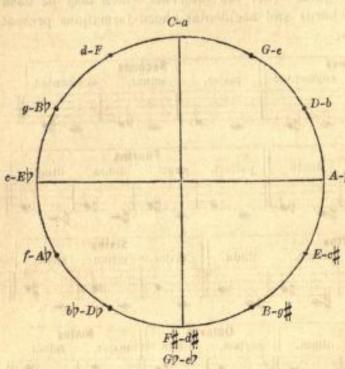
§ 7. We have now become acquainted with all the intervals necessary to the construction of chords and have measured them upwards from the tone C. For these measurements we have taken the diatonic C major scale as normal scale. If we wish to decide upon the intervals measuring from any other tone we shall have to establish the scale beginning with that tone. Although we may take it for granted that the pupil, as a student of music, has already a practical knowledge of all the scales, we will again explain that there are two kinds of keys, the major and the minor, and, consequently, two diatonic scales, the major and minor, which can be formed according to fixed laws, from any tone — always in the same relation as to the succession of intervals.

We have already become acquainted with these relations in the C major scale (see No. 8).*)

As soon as we take any other than the tone C as fundamental, we have to make use of transposition signs in the construction of the scale.

^{*)} We shall explain the formation of the minor scale later on.

Thus the scale of G requires one sharp, (\sharp) that of D, two; A, three; E, four; B, five, and $F\sharp$ six sharps. The scales of F, B_7 , E_7 , A_7 , D_7 , and G_7 require respectively one, two, three, four, five and six flats (7). Therefore the scales with signatures are to be regarded merely as transpo-



6

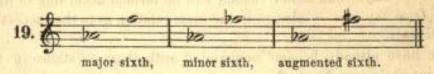
Large letters indicate the major, small letters their relative minor.

sitions of the scales of C major and A minor. The perfect fifth above or below C, or a, requires one transposition sign in order to preserve the same relation of the tones of the scale be-A-fflonging to that interval. Progressing further in fifths we must add another transposition sign with each progression in order to attain the same end. This, which is called the "circle of fifths", is illustrated in the adjoining figure.

If we wish to ascertain the major sixth (above) of $f\sharp$ we find it to be sixth tone of the $F\sharp$ major scale, which is $d\sharp$. Accordingly the minor sixth is d, and the augmented sixth $d\times$.



So the major sixth of A_7 is F the sixth tone of the A_7 major scale; the minor sixth is F_7 ; the augmented sixth F_2^* .

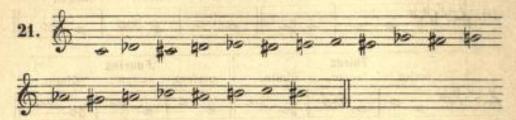


In determining all the intervals it is necessary to make use of all the transposition signs: flat (p), double flat (pp), sharp (\sharp) , double sharp (\times) , and natural (\sharp) , as they are needed in raising or lowering a tone. In order to make this clear to the pupil we present the following

table of intervals measured from $G_{\mathcal{P}}$ and F_{\sharp} . It will be seen by the signature that the scales of $G_{\mathcal{P}}$ and F_{\sharp} are used as the basis of measurement.



The pupil will now, as a first exercise, write all the intervals from all the tones and must be especially careful as to the correct notation of the enharmonic tones. For this purpose we refer to the following illustration which shows the true pitch of the tones in the enharmonicchromatic scale.



From this it will again be seen that the minor second is the smaller and the augmented prime, as compared to it, the larger interval. The same is true of the minor third C ep, the augmented second C—d\(\xi\), the diminished fourth, the major third etc.

§ 8. In conclusion we would state that the intervals are classified as perfect consonances, imperfect consonances, and dissonances. The perfect consonances are the perfect prime (unison) the perfect fourth, the perfect fifth and the perfect octave. The imperfect consonances are the major and minor third and the major and minor sixth. The dissonances are the major and minor second, the major and minor seventh, the major and minor ninth and all the augmented and diminished intervals.



ones B7, E7, A7 and D7. (The diminished fifth B7 F7 may, however, occasionally occur.) Measured from all the remaining tones they are used in the construction of chords.