

# Elementary Contrapuntal Motions

## Parallel Motion

In *parallel motion*, both voices move in the same direction and the interval class stays the same. The *quality* of the interval may be different (e.g. major vs. minor or P vs. °).

Diagram illustrating Parallel Motion. The intervals shown are: m3, m3, M3, M3, P5, P5, P4, +4, P4.

## Contrary Motion

In *contrary motion*, one voice moves up and the other voice moves down. Both voices change pitches.

Diagram illustrating Contrary Motion. The intervals shown are: m3, M3, P5, P4, M3, P5, P4, +4, P4.

## Oblique Motion

In *oblique motion*, one voice restates the same pitch while the other voice changes.

Diagram illustrating Oblique Motion. The intervals shown are: m3, P4, P5, m6, P5, M3, P4, M6, P5.

## Similar Motion

In *similar motion*, both voices move in the same direction. Unlike parallel motion, the two intervals are different classes (e.g. seconds vs. thirds, etc.).

Diagram illustrating Similar Motion. The intervals shown are: m3, P4, P5, m6, P5, M3, P4, M6, P5.