

Project Year

2012-2013

Project Title

Harmony- An Electronic Textbook

Project Team

Ildar Khannanov, Peabody Institute, Music Theory, Faculty
Ivan Moshchuk, Peabody Institute, Piano, Fellow

Audience

- 1) Peabody freshmen and sophomores
- 2) JHU Students taking Music Theory
- 3) Online learning students (in the new Peabody Distant Learning Program in Music Theory)
- 4) Prospective students from the Peabody Conservatory
- 5) Students in the last year of high school anywhere in the world

Pedagogical Issue

Current textbooks for harmony (such as Kostka-Payne, Aldwell-Schacher, etc.) have many disadvantages. They are not interactive; they provide rules of harmony diluted in extensive empirical discussions; they lack connection with 19th-century European tradition; they do not provide practical training in harmonization of unfigured melody; they do not inspire keyboard improvisation, composition in a form, active hearing of harmonic progression and writing harmonic progressions in larger forms. An even more serious problem is that students come to conservatories and universities to study harmony without previous experience.

Solution

Our textbook combines the latest information technology with solid 19th-century tradition (based on French, German and Russian models) and provides an interactive learning tool for both in-class and online learning. It offers solid training by using the method of unfigured melody harmonization. This is rare in contemporary North American textbooks, which rely solely on figured bass realizations. Using the MPEG files, embedded in the text of each chapter, our textbook will provide ample material for specific harmonic ear training. For those who are not pianists (the overwhelming pedagogic problem nowadays), the textbook provides instructional videos of hands on the keyboard, which can be watched together with the scores on the screen.

Technologies Used

Adobe
Finale
MS PowerPoint
Keynote
Flash

Faculty Statement

Although the textbook proposed has been used for several years in a less refined format, it needs

further development. My aspiration to write a textbook came after a conversation with my teacher, the leading professor of music theory at Moscow Conservatoire, Dr. Yuri Kholopov. I intend to develop some missing components in current theory pedagogy: harmonization of a melody, keyboard improvisation of harmony and aural harmonic analysis. Some of the melodies in the textbook are borrowed from the early Russian textbooks, written in Romantic style with the unprecedented emotional richness and detailed textures.

My second impetus to finalize the work on this textbook came from the Dean of Peabody Conservatory, Dr. Mellasenah Morris. Peabody, just as many other leading conservatories and schools of music, needs incoming students with a high level of preparation in academic disciplines. Unfortunately, it is not currently the case, and the faculty has a strong desire to improve the situation. We would like to prepare out incoming students in the areas of ear training and harmony. My textbook, being quite simple, user-friendly and based upon materials used in European pre-conservatory colleges, offers a solution. Peabody Conservatory plans to use this textbook for its new Distant Learning Program in Music Theory.