Epitome of Counterpoint.

Longum iter est per *Præcepta*, *breve* et *efficax* per *Exempla*: ——— SENECA Ep: VI.

Musical Composition, before our present notation, was expressed by *points*: hence the art of disposing, with pleasing harmony, two or more parts, was called *Counterpoint*; that is, *point* against *point*. *Counterpoint* may be divided into three sorts: SIMPLE, FLORID, and DOUBLE.

SIMPLE Counterpoint is a Composition in two or more parts, moving together in *concords* of equal length.

Example in 2 parts by JOSEPH FUX, Composer to CHARLES VI. Emperor of Germany.

SIMPLE Counterpoint.

Canto fermo, or ecclesiastical chant.

Example in 3 parts by FUX.

Canto fermo

SIMPLE Counterpoint.

Example in 4 parts by FUX.

SIMPLE Counterpoint.

Canto fermo in the lower part of the treble stave

SIMPLE Counterpoint.

Example of SIMPLE Counterpoint from a Madrigal by PALESTRINA.

&c.

FLORID Counterpoint admits notes of *various* length, *passing* notes, and *discords*.

FLORID Counterpoint.

Example in 2 parts by FUX.

Canto fermo

FLORID Counterpoint.

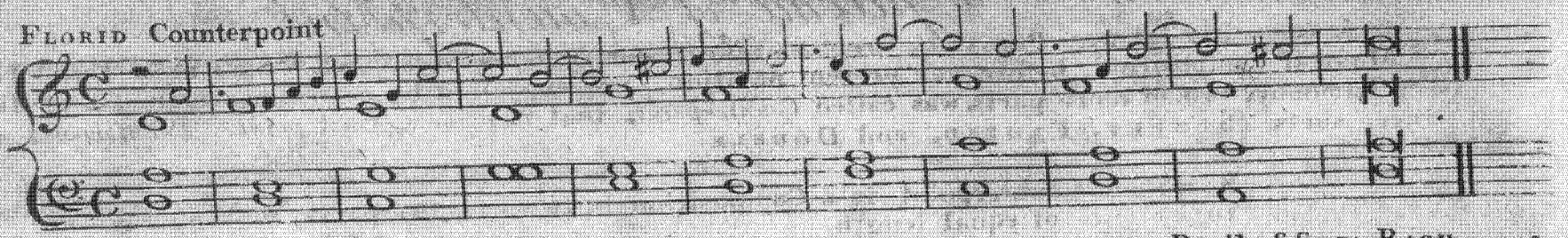
Example in 3 parts by FUX.

Canto fermo in the middle part.

(Engraved by Skarratt)

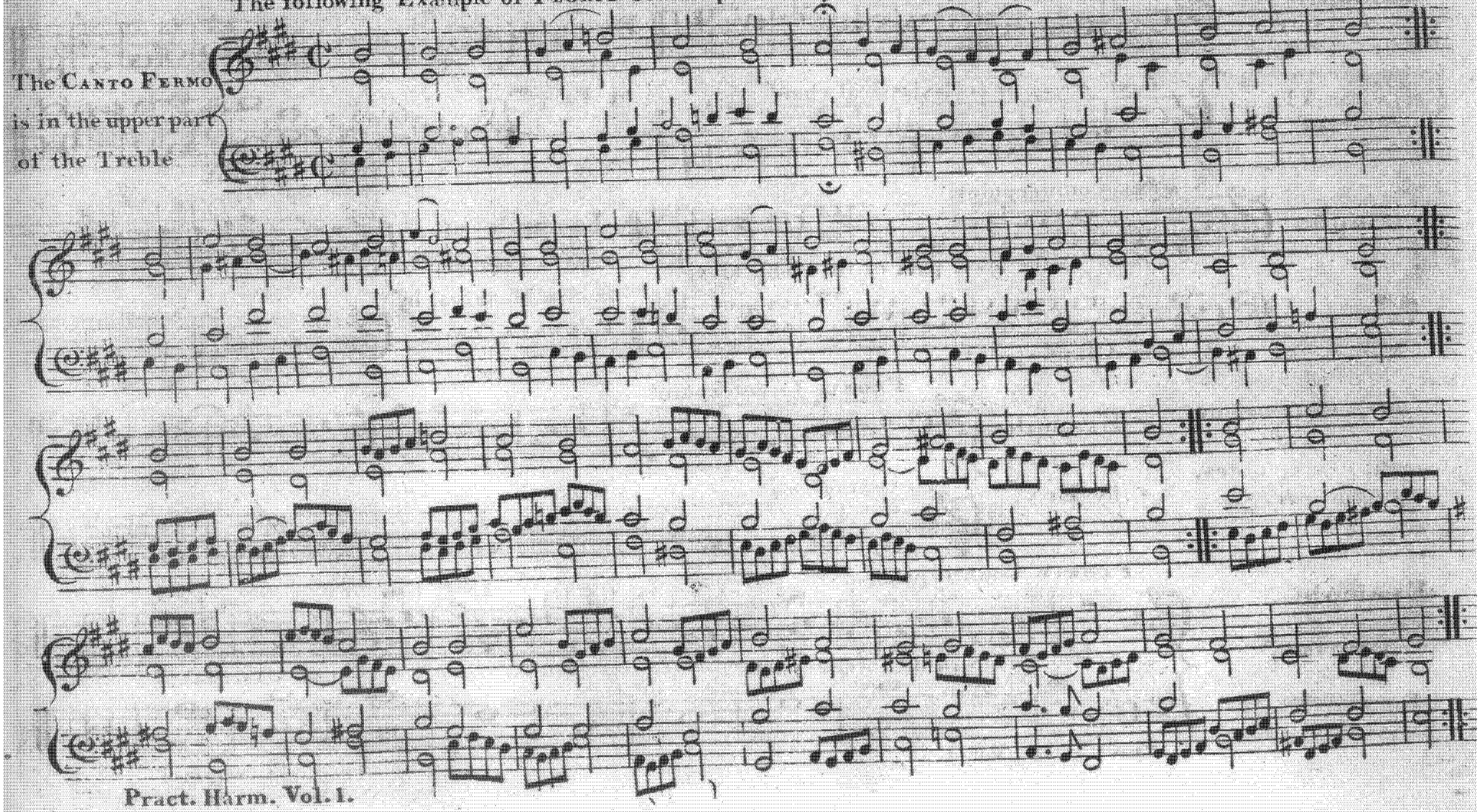
Example in 4 parts by Fux.

Florid Counterpoint



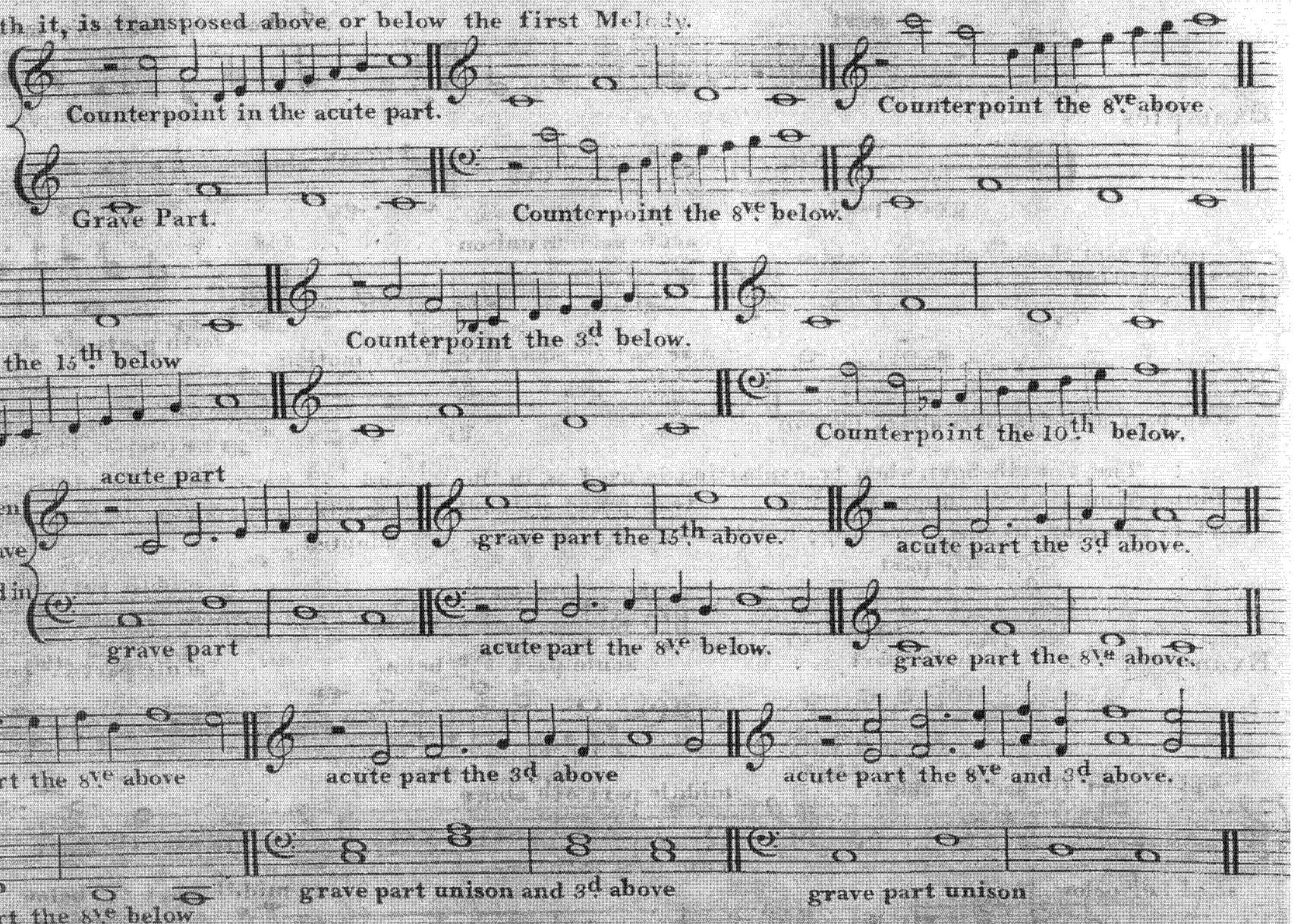
The following Example of Florid Counterpoint is by J. Phil: Kirnberger, Pupil of Seb: Bach.

The Canto Fermo is in the upper part of the Treble



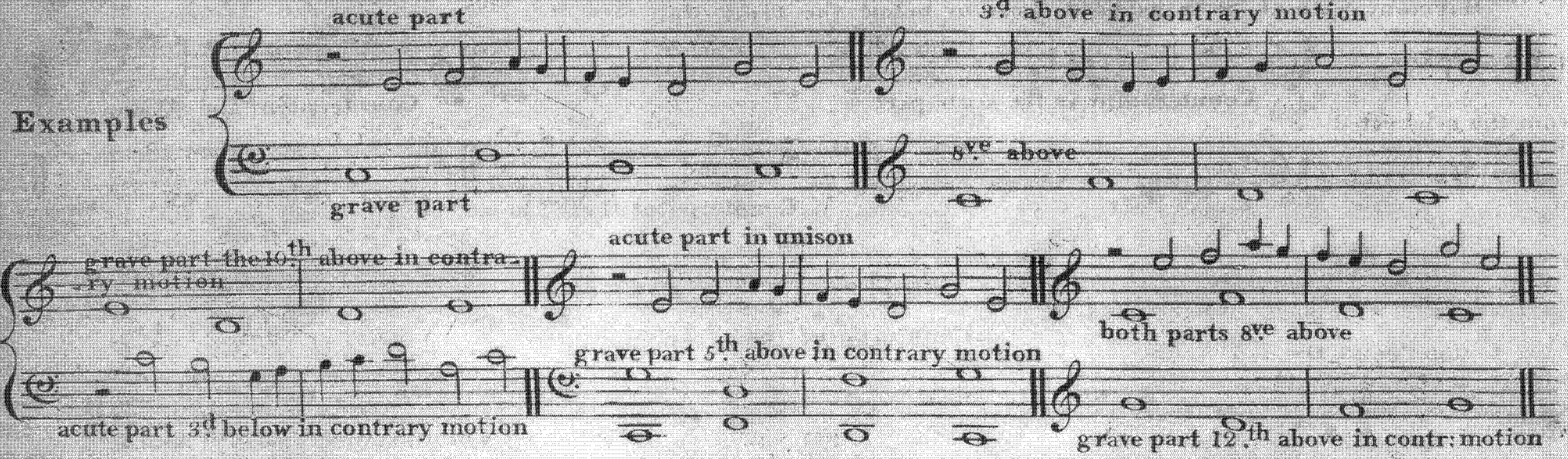
DOUBLE Counterpoint, which is the Source of innumerable musical beauties, may be divided into five sorts. The first; when, a Melody being repeated at the same pitch, another Melody in Harmony with it, is transposed above or below the first Melody.

Examples from the celebrated PADRE MARTINI.



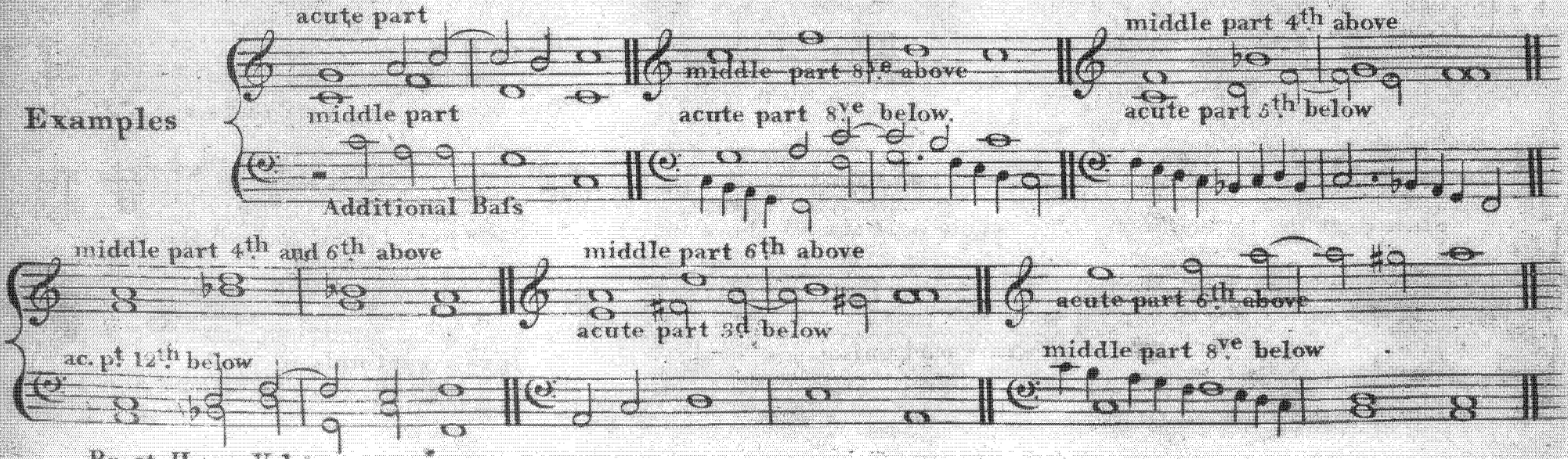
The Third Sort; when the acute or grave part, or both together are transposed in contrary motion, various ways.

Examples



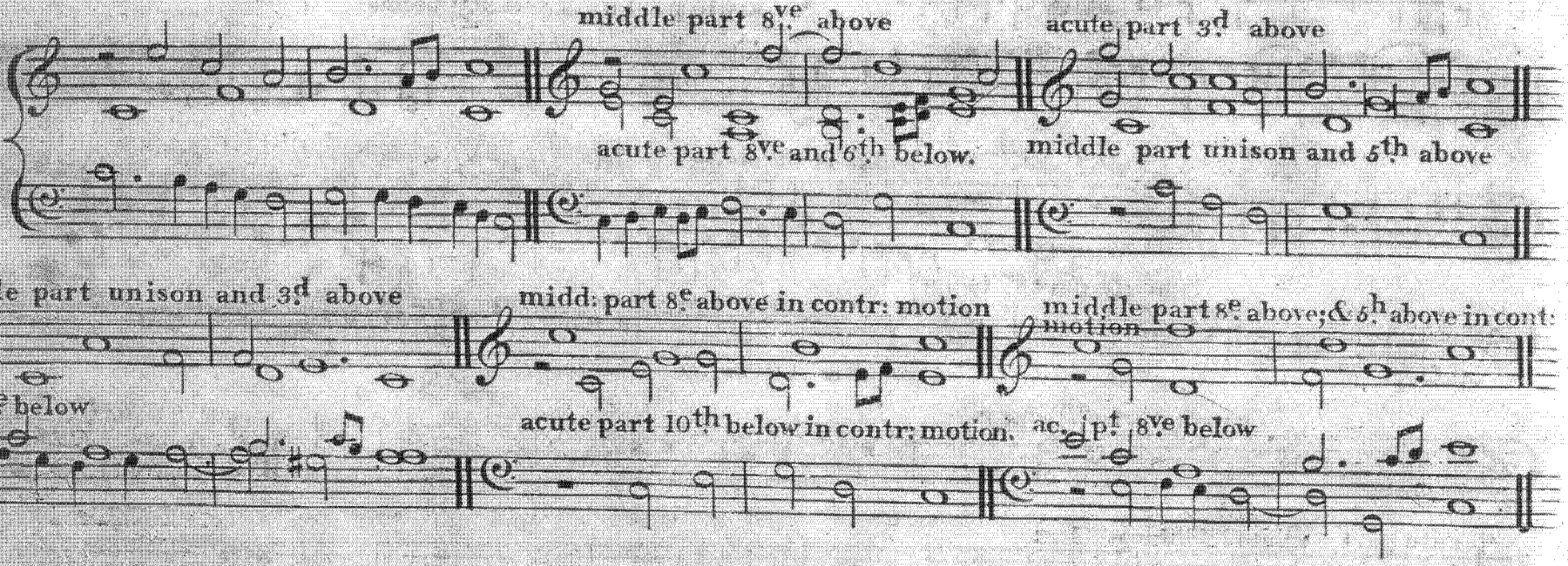
The Fourth Sort; when transposition is used as in the 2d and 3d Sort, with the addition of a Bafs, as a foundation, that the upper parts may be transposed without transgrefsing the rules of Harmony. This Sort is inferior to the preceding; but it is easier, and frequently adopted.

Examples

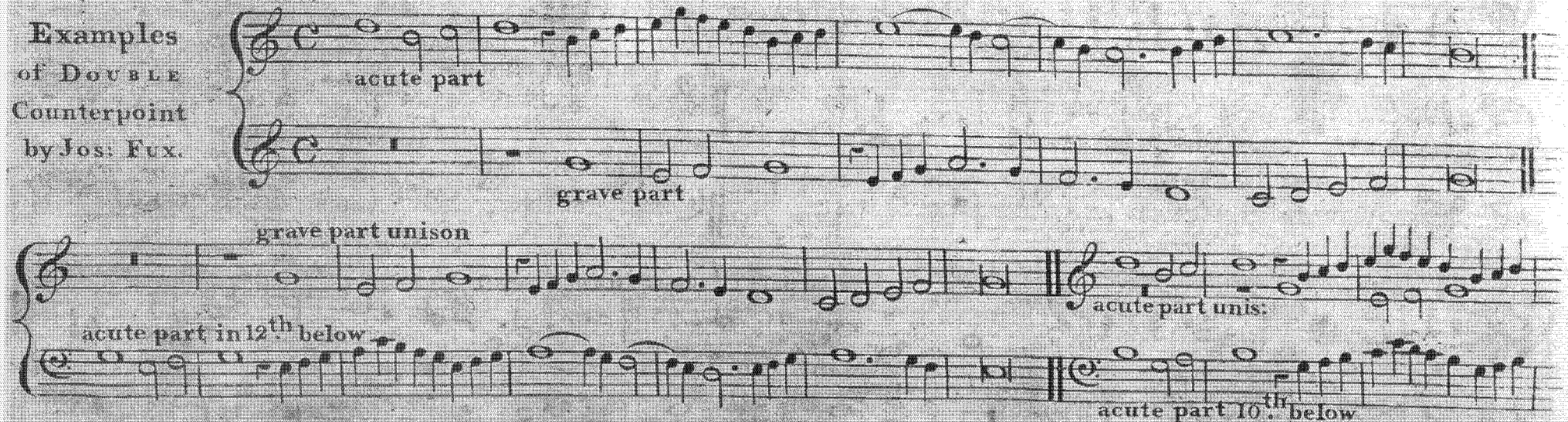


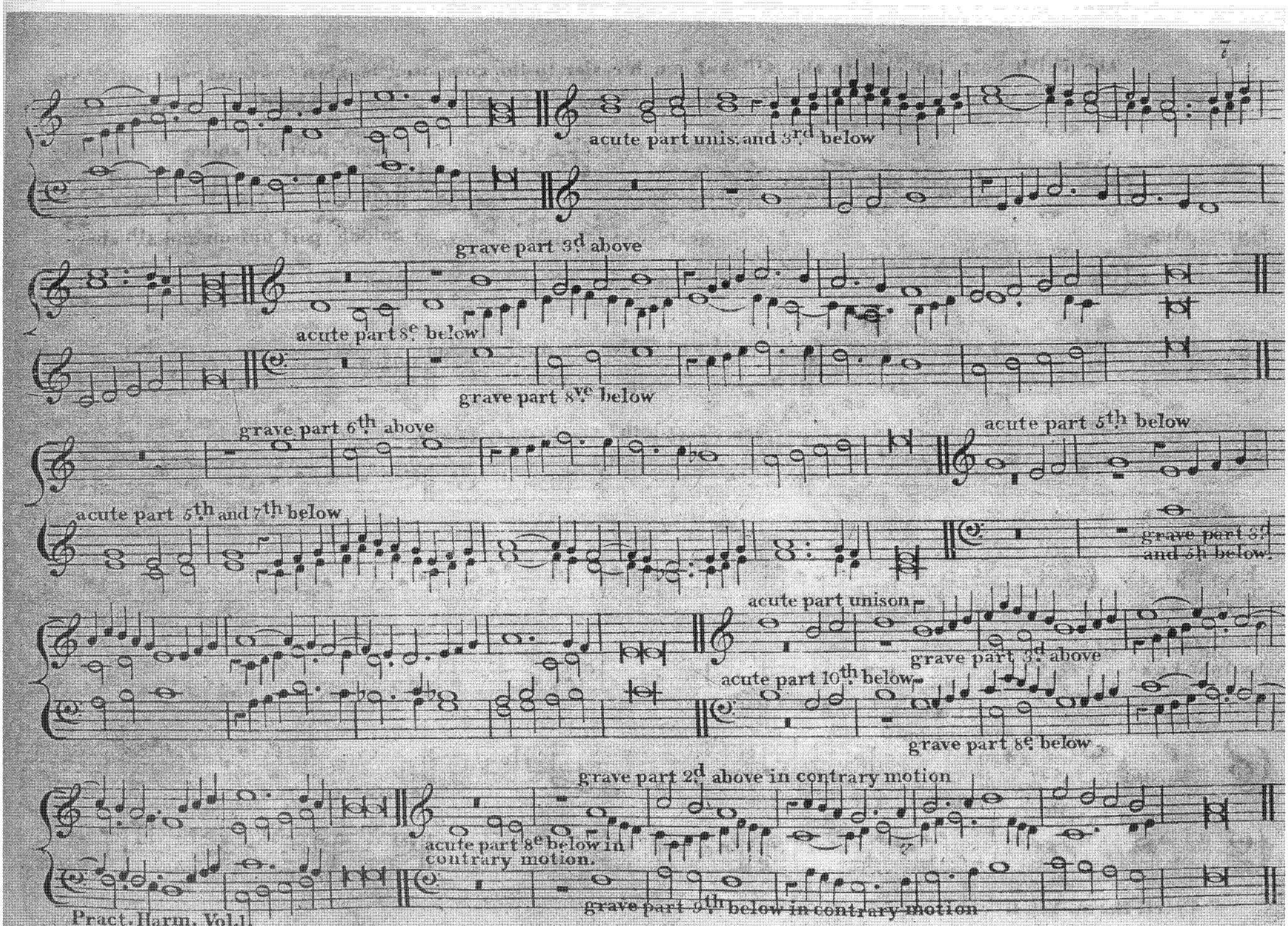
The Fifth Sort, inferior to the 4th but much easier to the composer, is, when the transposition of the parts is attended with a small change of time, or of interval. An additional Bafs is necefsary as a foundation.

Examples



Examples of Double Counterpoint by Jos: Fux.




acute part unis. and 3rd. below
grave part 3d above
acute part 8e. below
grave part 8ve below
grave part 6th. above
acute part 5th below
acute part 5th. and 7th below
grave part 5th and 5th below.
acute part unison
grave part 3d. above
acute part 10th below
grave part 8e. below
grave part 2d above in contrary motion
acute part 8e below in contrary motion.
grave part 9th below in contrary motion