A Corpus Approach to Mode in Vicentino's Chromatic Madrigals

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Gesellschaft für Musiktheorie Jahreskongress 2 October 2021



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Methodology
- 3 Analysis
 - Congruent Finals
 - Looking West to Mantua
 - Back to Ferrara: Non-congruent Finals
 - Levels of Congruence
 - Limitations of the Approach
- 4 Future Work
- 5 Conclusion

Introduction

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- Are there patterns that we may glean from these differences?
- What implications might these findings have for analysis, performance, and even composition?
- How might computer-aided musicology help with these findings?

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 - Measure the frequency of pitch-class articulations
 - Compare with the Monteverdi corpus present in the music21 library

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Congruent Finals

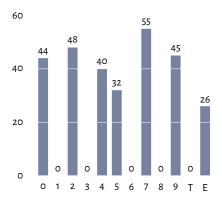


FIGURE 1: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's untitled diatonic madrigal with congruent G final



Congruent Finals



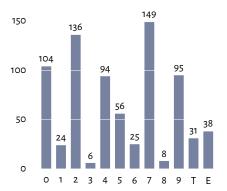


FIGURE 2: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's "Non s'incolpi la voglia," Book V, with congruent G final



Monteverdi Comparisons

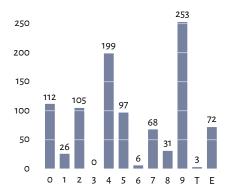


FIGURE 3: Pitch-class histogram for Monteverdi's "Ah, dolente partita!," Book IV, with congruent A final

Looking West to Mantua

Monteverdi Comparisons



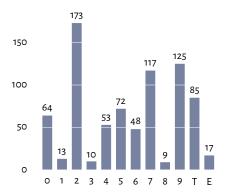


FIGURE 4: Pitch-class histogram for Monteverdi's "Anima mia, perdona," Book IV, with ambitus-congruent G final

Back to Ferrara: Non-congruent Finals

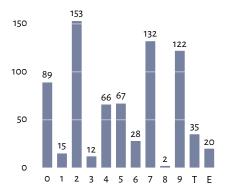


FIGURE 5: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's "Donna s'io miro," Book V, with non-congruent G final

Back to Ferrara: Non-congruent Finals

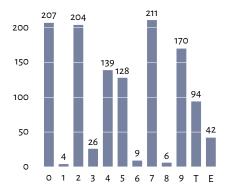


FIGURE 6: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's "Occhi lucenti e belli," Book V, with non-congruent A final

Back to Ferrara: Non-congruent Finals

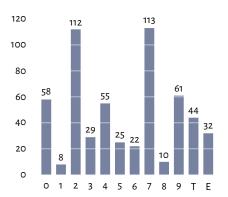


FIGURE 7: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's "Poi ch'el mio largo pianto," Book V with congruent G final



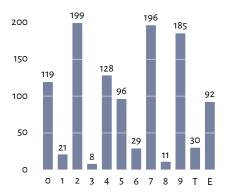


FIGURE 8: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's "Non pur quell' una bella ignuda mano," Book V, with congruent D final



Modal Discrepancies

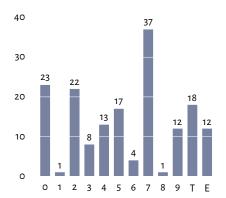


FIGURE 9: Pitch-class histogram for Vicentino's chromatic madrigal "Hierusalem"

Limitations of the Approach

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- Not congruent with how a sense of mode is actually created and/or determined

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- Considerations of other corpora: Luzzaschi, Gesualdo, di Lasso

di Lasso Comparisons

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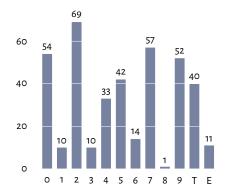


FIGURE 10: Pitch-class histogram for di Lasso's fifth Sibylline Prophecy, "Sibylla Samia," with congruent D final



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- Not a verdict on compositional acumen, but rather on nuances of style

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