

Monteverdi's Gloria for 8 voices M 25

Learn about the melodies in the Gloria. You need your score to refer to.

When he was writing music for St Mark's Monteverdi had to make sure the music would not sound muddy. This meant keeping the chords very clear - not changing them too quickly. It would have been boring to have everyone singing long notes, so he wrote short melodies or motifs which decorated the chord. As these motifs overlapped with each other, the music could sound very exciting even when the chord was held on.

In Activity 22 you found that in "Lord of the Dance" there are short notes in the tune that aren't in the chord. They fill in between two chord notes, or are adjacent to them. Technically, the ones that fill in between two notes are called "passing notes" and the ones that just wriggle up or down by one step are called "auxilliary notes".

Look at a really familiar tune. The notes that are in the chord are coloured. The extra notes are black

E major chord (E G# B) A minor chord (A C E) E major chord (E G# B) The bones of the melody are this:

Glo - ri - a in excel - sis De - o, Glo - ri - a in excel - sis De - o,

Find these bits in your score. They are all examples of how Monteverdi makes step-wise tunes out of chord notes. All the chords are marked in.

C major chord (C E G) D minor chord (D F A) C major chord (C E G)

G major chord (G B D) C major chord (C E G) F major chord (F A C) Bb major chord (Bb D F)

G Dm G C G C D G C

Am F Dm G D E Dm E A

a less usual but expressive chord, part of A7

just As, neither major nor minor