

## Tarantino: Chromatic Harmony 1

### Assignment 1

#### Realize the unfigured bass

#### Franz Tunder: Da mihi, Domine

You are provided with the unfigured bass of the opening bass aria of Franz Tunder's *Da mihi, Domine*. Create a realization (in four voices) for keyboard.

Elias and Corinna should do up to the first fermata  
Henry and Alessandro should do from the first fermata to the end.

Things to note:

- 1) This is an unfigured bass. This does *not* mean that the bass notes are the roots of the chords, nor does it mean that every bass note supports a new harmony. As Joel Lester writes in his *Compositional Theory in the Eighteenth Century*, "From the earliest days of thoroughbass, writers chastised composers and copyists for providing bass parts without any figures to guide performers. Despite perennial complaints, however, unfigured basses persisted right through the eighteenth century. Indolence may partly account for this situation. But it is hardly likely that unfigured basses would have existed at all if bass parts by themselves did not suggest predictable harmonies."
- 2) Use the given bass notes, vocal pitches and your knowledge of harmonic syntax to guide your chord choice.
- 3) Be sure to use proper voice leading techniques. Avoid forbidden motion. This is essential.
- 4) Write in four voices, in short score format. When complete your version should have three staves – the vocal line on the top staff and the accompaniment below, the given bass should be the lowest voice of the texture.
- 5) Feel free to use nonharmonic tones.
- 6) The Naxos Digital Library features three very different versions.
- 7) We'll look at your realizations on Wednesday.