

## FROM PARTIMENTO FUGUE TO THOROUGHBASS FUGUE: NEW PERSPECTIVES<sup>1</sup>

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Only seven or eight years ago a Google search on the phrase “partimento fugue” returned just seven matches. Today a search yields dozens of references to papers presented at various conferences and symposiums, master classes and seminars, published articles and special issues of magazines, and even sites dedicated specifically to the topic. In short, “partimento fugue” has entered the realm of subjects being actively researched today.<sup>2</sup>

In the present article we would like to join the rigorous discussion of partimento fugues, drawing attention to some theoretical questions that have never been discussed heretofore.

What exactly is this fugue that has drawn the attention of so many scholars? *Partimento fugue* is the term modern researchers use to describe a type of fugue that emerged during the Baroque era under the influence of thoroughbass technique. This influence revealed itself most clearly in the chordal stating of its counter-subjects, frequent

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<sup>2</sup>As David Ledbetter rightly noted in private correspondence, *partimento* has in most recent years become a very fashionable and popular subject in international music scholarship.