

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Music Theory



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Music Theory Course Overview

Students will explore the nature of music, integrating the key concepts of rhythm and meter, written music notation, the structure of various scale types, interval qualities, melody and harmony, the building of chords, and transposition. Throughout the series of assignments, ear training exercises are interspersed with the bones of composition technique, building in students the ability not only to hear and appreciate music, but step-by-step, to create it in written form as well. This highly interactive course culminates in the students producing original compositions, which while based on standard notation, demonstrate facets of personal expression. As the students' ability to perform increases in the future, they will better understand music and therefore better demonstrate its intrinsic communication of emotion and ideas.

- **Rhythm and Meter:** Students will build a foundational understanding of the elements of musical rhythm and meter, including the measure of different notes, time signatures, and special rhythms; additionally, students will participate in ear training exercises to build their skill in this area.
- **Notation and Pitch:** Students will identify musical symbols, intervals, and instrumentation, and will be able to use this knowledge to compose and original melody.
- **Scales and Key Signatures:** Students will examine scaled and both major and minor keys; projects include ongoing ear training exercises, the transposition of a melody to a new key, and the composition of original, non-diatonic melodies.
- **Harmony:** Students will construct an understanding of the key aspects of harmony including the various categories of intervals and triads and participate in ongoing ear training exercises; this unit culminates in the independent composition of a simple accompaniment.
- **Making Music:** Students will actively participate in the interpretation and composition of music, utilizing their knowledge of musical elements such as rhythm, pitch, key, harmony, and expression.
- **Course Review and Exam:** Students will complete a full review of key course concepts and demonstrate their mastery through a final examination.

Unit 1: Rhythm and Meter	
Assignments	
Music Theory	1. Course Overview
	2. So, Why Study Music Anyway?
	3. Feeling the Beat
	4. The Value of a Note
	5. Measuring Music
	6. The Value of Silence
	7. Dots and Ties
	8. Ear Training #1 - Rhythm 1
	9. Quiz 1: Introduction to Rhythm
	10. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form A: Introduction to Rhythm*
	11. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form B: Introduction to Rhythm*
	12. 4/4 - The Basic Time Signature
	13. Going Beyond 4/4
	14. Still More Time Signatures
	15. Counting a Bit Faster
	16. Ear Training #2 - Rhythm 2
	17. Special Rhythms
	18. Creating a Rhythmic Piece
	19. Quiz 2: Time Signature
	20. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form A: Time Signature*
	21. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form B: Time Signature*
	22. Special Project*
	23. Review
	24. Test
	25. Alternate Test - Form A*
	26. Alternate Test - Form B*
	27. Glossary and Credits

Unit 2: Notation and Pitch		
Music Theory	Assignments	
	1. The Printed Page	16. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form B: The Sound of Music*
	2. The Musical Alphabet	17. Voicings
	3. Altering Pitches	18. Instrumentation
	4. Ear Training #3: Pitch	19. Instrumentation 2
	5. Direction and Signs	20. Ear Training #5: Identifying Instruments
	6. Quiz 1: The Look of Music	21. Quiz 3: The Source of Music
	7. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form A: The Look of Music*	22. Alternate Quiz 3 - Form A: The Source of Music*
	8. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form B: The Look of Music*	23. Alternate Quiz 3 - Form B: The Source of Music*
	9. Musical Intervals	24. Special Project*
	10. Writing Musical Intervals	25. Review
	11. Ear Training #4: Intervals	26. Test
	12. From Interval to Melody	27. Alternate Test - Form A*
	13. Project: Composing a Simple Melody	28. Alternate Test - Form B*
	14. Quiz 2: The Sound of Music	29. Glossary and Credits
	15. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form A: The Sound of Music*	

Unit 3: Scales and Key Signatures		
Music Theory	Assignments	
	1. Introduction to the Scale	13. Changing Keys
	2. The Minor Scale	14. Project: Transposing Melodies
	3. Other Scales	15. Quiz 2: Musical Key Signatures
	4. Ear Training #6: Scales	16. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form A: Musical Key Signatures*
	5. Project: Composing Non-Diatonic Melodies	17. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form B: Musical Key Signatures*
	6. Quiz 1: Musical Scales	18. Special Project*
	7. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form A: Musical Scales*	19. Review
	8. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form B: Musical Scales*	20. Test
	9. Employing Scales as Keys	21. Alternate Test - Form A*
	10. Identifying Major Keys	22. Alternate Test - Form B*
	11. Identifying Minor Keys	23. Glossary and Credits
	12. Comparing Major and Minor Keys	

Unit 4: Harmony		
Music Theory	Assignments	
	1. Interval Quality	13. Ear Training #10: Hearing Triads
	2. Ear Training #7: Major or Minor?	14. Using Triads and Chords
	3. Perfect Intervals	15. Project: Creating a Simple Accompaniment
	4. Ear Training #8: Major, Minor, or Perfect?	16. Quiz 2: Working with Chords
	5. Augmented and Diminished Intervals	17. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form A: Working with Chords*
	6. Ear Training #9: Harmony or Dissonance?	18. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form B: Working with Chords*
	7. Quiz 1: Beginning to Harmonize	19. Special Project*
	8. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form A: Beginning to Harmonize*	20. Review
	9. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form B: Beginning to Harmonize*	21. Test
	10. Building Triads	22. Alternate Test - Form A*
	11. Comparing Triads	23. Alternate Test - Form B*
	12. Inverting Triads	24. Glossary and Credits

Unit 5: Making Music		
Music Theory	Assignments	
	1. Musical Performance	13. You're the Composer
	2. Musical Performance 2	14. Original Composition
	3. Ornamentation	15. Quiz 2: Finding Your Voice
	4. Phrasing	16. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form A: Finding Your Voice*
	5. Style	17. Alternate Quiz 2 - Form B: Finding Your Voice*
	6. Ear Training #11: Listening for Musical Expression	18. Special Project*
	7. Quiz 1: Interpreting Music	19. Review
	8. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form A: Interpreting Music*	20. Test
	9. Alternate Quiz 1 - Form B: Interpreting Music*	21. Alternate Test - Form A*
	10. Applications of Music	22. Alternate Test - Form B*
	11. Arranging	23. Glossary and Credits
	12. Composition Principles	

Unit 6: Course Review and Exam		
Music Theory	Assignments	
	1. Review	3. Alternate Exam - Form A*
	2. Exam	4. Alternate Exam - Form B*

(*) Indicates alternative assignment