AP Music Theory

Course Description:
AP Music Theory is open to students grades 10-12 who are serious about the study of music, exploring and enriching their knowledge in music fundamentals. This course will be introducing and developing the student in musicianship, theory, musical materials, and procedures. It integrates aspects of melody, harmony, texture, rhythm, form, musical analysis, elementary composition, and, to some extent, history and style. Musicianship skills such as dictation and other listening skills, sight-singing, and keyboard harmony are considered an important part of the theory course. The student’s ability to read and write musical notation is fundamental to such a course. It is also strongly recommended that the student will have acquired thorough performance skills in voice or on an instrument. Students are expected to take the AP Music Theory Exam in May in efforts of earning a score of 3 – 5, which will yield credit towards music theory college courses.

Course Objectives:
The ultimate goal of an AP Music Theory course is to develop a student’s ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The achievement of this goal may be best promoted by integrated approaches to the student’s development of aural skills, sight-singing skills, written skills, compositional skills, and analytical skills through listening exercises, performance exercises, written exercises, creative exercises and analytical exercises.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>HELPFUL SITES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>➔ Laptop</td>
<td><a href="https://tobyrush.com/theorypages/">https://tobyrush.com/theorypages/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ 1 Inch; 3 ring Binder (dividers, too)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.musictheory.net">www.musictheory.net</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ Notebook paper</td>
<td><a href="https://tonesavvy.com/">https://tonesavvy.com/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>➔ Pencil</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sightreadingfactory.com">www.sightreadingfactory.com</a></td>
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Course Text:
The following texts will be used throughout the course in addition to several supplemental resources.


Course Access:
https://digital.wwnorton.com/guidetotheory3  User: tapsoni@lake.k12.fl.us  Pass: Ilovetheory2021

Student Expectations
Students are expected to be attentive during lecture and take part in activities and discussions. Although content will be covered in class, it will be the responsibility to utilize the monthly calendar and study the lesson in advance. Students will be expected to complete some work at home on
their own with guided instructions. Throughout the course, students will be keeping a binder that will be important to their success throughout the course. Worksheets, quizzes, tests, and additional informational sheets should be kept in this binder for reference.

**Grading Policy:**
A cumulative grade will be based off the total accumulated points from the assignments below:

- Daily assignments and homework
- Ear training and dictation activities
- Analysis, Composition, and Arranging projects
- Unit, Midterm, and Final exams

**AP Exam:**
The AP Examination in Music Theory tests the student’s understanding of musical structure and compositional procedures through recorded and notated examples. Taking the exam is required. Strong emphasis is given to listening skills, particularly those involving recognition and comprehension of melodic and rhythmic patterns, harmonic functions, small forms, and compositional techniques. The examination assumes fluency in reading musical notation and a strong grounding in music fundamentals, terminology, and analysis. The Exam is about two and a half hours long and consists of two sections. Section I consists of multiple-choice questions, some of which are based on aural stimulus. Section II consists of written free-response questions and sight-singing exercises.

**Late Work and Make-Up Policy:**
When a student fails to meet designated due dates and deadlines relating to formative work during a unit of study, that student will receive a maximum of 75% of the points possible for any late work submitted on or before the summative assessment for that particular unit. Late work during a unit of study will not be accepted after the summative assessment and a zero will be recorded in the grade book for that work. A student will have seven calendar days after the deadline/due date of a summative project, paper, or other assignment to submit such work for a maximum of 60% of the points possible. After the seventh calendar day, summative work will not be accepted and a zero will be recorded in the grade book for that work. Teachers may use discretion when working with individual students who have verifiable extenuating circumstances beyond their control.

**Course Planner and Layout**
Below is a breakdown of what will be discussed throughout the course during each quarter. All content is taken from Clendenning and Marvin’s *The Musician’s Guide to Theory and Analysis, Third Edition* but will be supplemented by other classroom materials provided by the instructor. In addition to the theory content, students will complete sequential sight-reading and ear-training exercises that correlate with the text through instructor-provided classroom materials. Students will also be exposed to the Western style periods of music throughout the course through listening examples in the chapter and resources provided by the instructor.

**Unit 1 Investigating Fundamentals of Music (August 15-October 14)**
- Students will explore a basic review of notation including pitch and rhythmic notation. Students will also gather a deeper understanding of major and minor pitch and scale collections and how those develop into intervallic relationships and chordal harmonies.
Students will strengthen aural skills through sight-reading, interval training, melodic and rhythmic dictation weekly.

**Unit 2 Exploring Diatonic Harmony and Tonicization (October 18-December 15)**
- Students will synthesize the elements learned in Unit 1 into soprano and bass harmonization and part writing. Students will develop a basic understanding of SATB chorale writing, focusing on building appropriate soprano and bass lines.
- Students will strengthen aural skills through sight-reading, interval training, melodic and rhythmic dictation weekly.

**Unit 3: Expanding Basic Phrase, Structure, and Harmony (January 3 -March 4)**
- Students will continue to expand their understanding of SATB chorale writing using new chords, cadence types, and embellishments. They will explore chord progressions and resolutions with the use of vii, secondary dominant, and secondary leading tone chords. Students will also begin to analyze how music is organized through sequencing and form study.
- Students will strengthen aural skills through sight-reading, interval training, melodic and rhythmic dictation weekly.

**Unit 4: Focusing on Form and Final Review (March 20- June 1)**
- Students will use the remaining time to practice concepts for the AP Music Theory Exam. We will review previous topics and work on practice exams.
- Students will strengthen aural skills through sight-reading, interval training, melodic and rhythmic dictation weekly.

*AP Music Theory Exam: Friday, May 12, 8:00 AM*