

Fine Arts: Music Theory June 2013

Instructional Resources

These materials are intended to be supplemental learning resources for potential use in all choral courses. The Virginia Department of Education does not have any music textbooks adopted at the state level. Per School Board Policy IIAA, staff has reviewed materials available and have deemed these suggested resources to be suited to the specific curricular goals of needs of Albemarle County Public Schools.

Music in Theory and Practice: Volumes I and II, 8th edition. This text gives students a solid foundation in the theory of music. It strengthens their musical intuition, builds technical skills, and helps them gain interpretive insights. The goal of the text is to instruct readers on the practical application of knowledge. The analytical techniques presented are carefully designed to be clear, uncomplicated, and readily applicable to any repertoire.

The two-volume format ensures exhaustive coverage and maximum support for students and faculty alike. Volume I, which will be the one used primarily for high school music theory classes, serves as a general introduction to music theory. Volume II could be used for independent study, and offers a survey of the theoretical underpinnings of musical styles and forms from Gregorian Chant through the present day.

- Two-Volume Format: The two volumes provide a complete basis for the study of music theory. Each spiral-bound volume maintains an outline that ensures conciseness, efficiency, and ease in locating specific topics.
- Thorough and Comprehensive Coverage: *Music in Theory and Practice* includes a thorough study of the fundamentals of music and the structural elements of melody, rhythm, and texture. In this way, the authors hope to present a more balanced view of the structure of music, rather than concentrating exclusively on harmony and voice leading.
- Historical perspective: Each chapter includes a short section labeled "History" which relates the topic at hand to the history of music. [A brief overview of music history and its relation to European and American history is included in appendix D of the text.]
- Integrated teaching and learning package: This textbook is a part of a carefully integrated package. An instructor's manual accompanies each volume. It offers helpful hints in presenting class material, answers to objective text assignments, and comprehensive examinations. Two workbook/anthologies for students and solutions manuals for those workbook/anthologies are also available.

Monticello High School piloted the use of these books during the 2012-2013 school year, and Albemarle High School plans to use these books during the 2013-2014 school year. For more information, including the table of contents and sample student materials, click here: http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0073101877/information_center_view0/table_of_contents.html

Fine Arts: SmartMusic June 2013

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SmartMusic would let us transform the way our students practice and learn, plus it gives additional flexibility to teachers for individualized instruction and assessment. This interactive tool provides a way to see and track improvement in individual students' skills, which in turn improves the caliber of an ensemble. As students play along with music onscreen, it gives them immediate feedback on their performance by showing correct pitches and rhythms in green and incorrect in red. Students are able hear their part in context with SmartMusic's background accompaniment of a full ensemble.

Using the full capabilities of SmartMusic, instrumental and vocal teachers have the ability to create and send assignments to each of their students. Additionally, the enormous library of music, including all of the books that we teachers use for instruction, are available to students for their annual subscription. SmartMusic allows students to move at their own pace and select music they want to learn.

The music teacher will still be a critical component to an excellent music classroom by helping students with interpretation and creative expression of the technical skills assessed by SmartMusic.

The Albemarle High School band program has successfully implemented the use of SmartMusic for many years. Now, with more of our schools going to a 1-1 initiative, we have more teachers expressing interest in using this program. This desire towards individualized and standards-based instruction is right in line with the ideals of Albemarle County Public Schools.

For more information, including the table of contents and sample student materials, click here: <http://www.smartmusic.com/products/> and <http://www.smartmusic.com/products/students/>