

Music Theory

Course Description:

Music Theory provides a foundation for lifelong learning and engagement with music, offering students a deeper appreciation of the art form and the ability to apply theoretical concepts in various musical contexts. In this course, students will learn the basic principles of music theory including scales, chords, 4-part writing, analysis, ear training, sight reading, and composition.

Curriculum Work So Far:

1. Discussed the current reality of the course and the problems that existed.
2. Established end goals for students taking Music Theory and steps to achieve those goals.
3. Agreed upon the skills students would learn during the course.
4. Drafted a curricular scope & sequence of 4 units that aligned with the AP guidelines.
 - Unit 1:** Elements of Music
 - Unit 2:** Elements of Music II
 - Unit 3:** Diatonic Harmony and Tonicization I
 - Unit 4:** Diatonic Harmony and Tonicization II
5. Looked at the learning objectives measured and the work that students produced.
6. Developed enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals in alignment with the Missouri Fine Arts Grade Level Expectations. The enduring understandings and essential questions that drive the course are listed below. Additionally, each exploratory unit has specific enduring understandings, essential questions, and student learning goals.

Course Enduring Understandings:

- Music has inherent structures and organizational principles that contribute to the coherence and expressiveness of a composition.
- Melody and harmony influence and enhance each other to create a unified musical experience.
- Understanding the historical and cultural contexts of music theory enhances the appreciation and interpretation of musical compositions.
- The ability to recognize and analyze musical elements by ear enhances overall musical proficiency.
- Analytical skills are crucial for interpreting and understanding music.
- Applying theoretical concepts to composition and performance enriches both the creative and interpretive aspects of music-making.
- Music theory is adaptable to a wide range of musical styles and genres, allowing musicians to navigate and appreciate diverse musical traditions.
- Musical language evolves over time, and understanding the historical development of musical conventions and styles provides insights into the evolution of music genres.
- Music theory provides a framework based on tradition, while also allowing for exploration and innovation in composition and performance.

Essential Questions:

- How can the understanding of the fundamental elements of pitch and rhythm enhance musical literacy?
- What role does harmony play in music?
- What musical elements contribute to the harmonic structure of a composition?
- What techniques are used in creating memorable and engaging melodies?
- What influences the texture of music, including harmonic complexity and richness?
- What are the common structural elements found in various musical genres?
- How does the exploration of advanced harmonic concepts contribute to a deeper understanding of tonalization in music?
- How can the skills of musical analysis be applied to interpret and appreciate the artistic choices made by composers, leading to a more profound musical experience.

Student Learning Overview:

- This is a year-long class offered for dual credit. Students taking this class must have some previous music background.