



## **MUSIC TECHNOLOGY & THEORY**

### ***Produce Your Own Hit Song***

---

**Faculty Member: Peter Hazzard**

**Email: [peter.hazzard@tfanh.org](mailto:peter.hazzard@tfanh.org)**

**Location: Room 195    Office: 174**

**Credit: High School 1.0cr Technology, Music**

**Date this Syllabus was last updated: Aug 24, 2025**

**NOTE:** This syllabus is subject to change throughout the year.

#### **A. Course Description**

---

You might play an instrument and/or sing, or you might not. In either case, this project-based class will not only teach you the basics of musical composition (or “Theory”) but it will also give you the hands-on skills to actually create your own music.

You’ll see that composing music is similar to writing a story. The writer has tools that can be used to craft the story: the alphabet, words, phrases, paragraphs, and an idea for a plot. Music has very similar tools. In order to craft (compose) a piece of music you need: notes, scales, chords, melody, harmony, and an idea for the style or the kind of music you want to create. So, you can see that learning musical composition is like learning a foreign language. The big difference is that when you are finished creating a piece of music, everyone can hear your creation and decide if they like it. They don’t have to learn a whole new language.

You will become familiar with musical vocabulary, understanding the elements of notation, and explore both melodic and harmonic music. And wait! There’s more! There are 26 letters in the English alphabet, but there are only 12 notes in our musical alphabet! That’s less than half, but it’s the endless ways to use them that is such fun. Our easy-to-use cloud-based software will have you creating your own music in no time! And, you’ll be able to hear it as you create it. You’ll also understand what you’re doing and why you’re doing it. Whether you know some music theory or if you’ve only been an

avid listener to this point, you'll have fun creating real music! In Willy Nelson's classic country song, *On the Road Again*, he sings about the fact that "the life I love is making music with my friends!" Take this class and see if you don't agree with Willie!

## **B. Course Objectives**

---

To learn the basics of music theory and create an original pop song.

To learn and use contemporary computer technology and skills to produce a complete song with lyrics and accompaniment.

## **C. How this Class Supports Founders' Mission and Themes**

---

Students are challenged to become responsible and independent with their studies. They will learn the functions of music theory and will master a computer program to create an original work of art (Popular Song.) The final project will be completed using both computer-generated and natural acoustic vocal and instrumental sound. These skills, practiced day-by-day, will bring them successfully forward along any path to understanding and creating "intellectual property". The Code of Conduct will be strictly adhered to in all activities in class, and its importance in the field of science as well as in group activities will be reflected upon throughout the year.

### **Mission Statement:**

The Founders Academy is a public charter school encompassing grades 6-12 that is free and open to all New Hampshire students. The academy develops citizens and leaders, who understand and apply the lessons of the past, demonstrate exceptional character, participate knowledgeably in community activities, and lead by example. The Academy recognizes the importance of balance in the development of each person and respects each student's individual journey.

Principled leadership and good citizenship are fostered by means of a curriculum of classical studies that includes analyzing the lives of great men and women of history, mining the rich classical ideals of the Western tradition, and tracing the evolution of the precious and costly idea of liberty.

### **The Vision:**

The Founders Academy prepares wise, principled leaders by offering a classical education and providing a wide array of opportunities to lead.

### **Leadership Code of Conduct:**

The students at The Founders Academy created and adopted the following "Leadership Code of Conduct" in January, 2015:

1. Be responsible
2. Be respectful
3. Be honest
4. Be lawful
5. Be determined
6. Be polite
7. Be open-minded
8. Be courageous
9. Be confident
10. Be helpful

Policy: As outlined in the Student Handbook, students are to follow Section 3.0

### **D. Texts and Class Supplies**

---

A Workbook will be handed out in class. There is no charge for the book.

1.) Students must have a #2 Pencil for **Music Theory** class. I recommend Paper Mate Sharp Writer #2 plastic mechanical pencils. Always available at STAPLES or [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

2.) A 1" 3-ring binder **OR** a separate section for this class in a larger binder. **The workbook is bound separately.**

### **E. Grading Scheme, Homework, Mid-Term and Final Assessments**

---

**Homework:** I do not believe in giving homework just to give homework. However, in any music theory class there is certain content which must be continually practiced and used as new content is continually added. So, homework will be reinforcing what has been done in class. At times, homework might also be to watch an online video of demonstration of a new skill or topic. That way you can come to class ready with questions and ready to explore that technique as a class. This is known in current education jargon as the "flipped classroom". It saves valuable class time but the homework must get done before class.

**Missed Classes:** If you miss a class please take the responsibility to get the assignment. Check online, with a classmate, or give me a call (not later than 9:30 pm). I must hear from you personally, not in a message from a friend/classmate. Do not come into the next class and

say “I didn’t get the assignment.” And of course, if you know you will have to miss a class you should let me know ahead of time. If you are sick and an assignment is due, have someone bring it in for you. If not, you must hand in the work on the day you return to school (even if our class doesn’t meet on that day.)

**Grading:**

*Students will be graded on the following percentages:*

**25% Daily Class Participation and Effort**  
**25% Written Work/Class Projects/Homework**  
**20% Using what you are learning (see #1 below)**  
**30% Quizzes/Exams (includes the final project)**

1. **Everything** you do in class counts and is subject to a grade. Your creativity will most certainly count, but I will be far more critical of your ability to learn techniques, and draw conclusions from them.

2. 50% of your grade will be based on your daily work, participation in class discussions and writing, and homework, as well as the effort you put into the preparation and execution of these activities. The other 50% will come from your written work, including your notebook, quizzes and exams.

3. All homework and assignments will have a due date and are expected to be turned in on that date. Late work of any kind will be accepted on the following schedule: 1 day late = grade lowered by 10%, 2 days late = lowered by 20%, 3 days late = lowered by 30%, 4<sup>th</sup> day or later = grade of 0 but credit for completing the assignment. Work not in by the end of the marking period will lead to a grade of Incomplete or at end of the term a grade of F in the course.

4. Your notebook will be examined regularly with a grade indicated. Suggestions for improvement in your notes are expected to be visible upon the next inspection of the book.

5. Homework will be graded by a check system or a letter grade and you will be informed as to which system will be used for each assignment. Your musical assignments in the first semester of this class will have specific requirements and everyone’s result will and should be the same.

**The Grade Scale used at Founders is as follows:**

A+ - 98–100%	A+ = 4.33
A – 94-97%	A = 4.0
A- - 90-93%	A- = 3.67
B+ - 87-89%	B+ = 3.33
B – 84-86%	B = 3.0
B- - 80-83%	B- = 2.67

C+ - 77-79%	C+ = 2.33
C – 74-76%	C = 2.0
C- - 70-73%	C- = 1.67
D+ - 67-69%	D+ = 1.33
D – 64-66%	D = 1.0
D- - 60-63%	D- = 0.67
F – 59% and below	F = 0

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 2.2 for more information

## F. Mastery

---

### Definition of Mastery at The Founders Academy

Mastery is the acquisition of a deep level of knowledge through meeting content specific benchmarks. Students develop a thorough understanding of the subject matter by consistently applying their skills and demonstrating strong command of the material.

### Why “mastery?”

Mastery ensures that the goal of a rigorous curriculum and high expectations are maintained at The Founders Academy. We do not simply require that students “pass” a course, but that they “master” the content of each course. Additionally, the process allows students whose mastery is in question at the end of a quarter or course to continue to work towards mastering the content, and to demonstrate their mastery for the purpose of moving forward to the next level of instruction in a particular subject area.

### What is the “process?”

1. The process includes benchmarks for assessment. This includes an assessment of mastery at the end of each quarter; students who earn grades of a B- or above are considered masters of the content automatically. Mastery must be demonstrated in all courses in order to pass the course or to receive high school credit. The only exceptions to this policy are in middle school art, band, or chorus courses.
2. Students who earn cumulative grades of C- to C+ may still demonstrate mastery by completing additional work, at the teacher’s discretion. The additional work must be completed within a specified window of time.
3. The process includes both teacher and student reflection. Quarterly benchmarks allow students, parents, and teachers to address any deficiencies in progress as the school year progresses. All should work to monitor student progress towards final course mastery through the school year.

4. Supplementary instruction is pivotal in this process. Students who do not demonstrate mastery with a semester or course grade of a B- or above may have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery at the end of the course by completing supplemental instruction, provided by the teacher.

**Course Mastery:**

At the end of a semester-long or full-year course, students who earn a grade of a B- or above will be considered masters of the content and automatically be promoted to the next level within that course's subject area (if there is one).

Students who earn a grade of C- through C+ will only pass the course/receive high school credit, and be allowed to proceed to the next level (if applicable), by completing additional work at the teacher's discretion to demonstrate mastery. The only exceptions to this policy are middle school art, band, and chorus courses.

For semester-long courses that are completed at the end of Semester 1, attempts for Mastery must be completed within 2 weeks of issuance of quarter 2 report cards. For courses that are completed at the end of the school year, mastery work must be completed within two weeks of the issuance of end of year report cards.

If a student demonstrates course mastery through completing supplementary work, their cumulative grade does not change.

**Forms of demonstrating mastery may include:**

Projects, Oral Exams, Written Exams, Exam Re-takes, Khan Academy, After School Tutoring, and other assignments deemed appropriate by teachers.

**Necessary Steps to Success of the Mastery Process:**

- Teachers must explain Mastery to their students clearly and frequently during the school year. It should be emphasized even more than the numeric value of the grade the student earns, as only mastery is used to determine if students progress to the next level in a subject area.
- Students must understand that a letter grade of a B- or higher at the end of the course determines whether mastery is automatically recognized.
- At the end of the course, only students who have earned a grade of C- through C+ may complete additional work to demonstrate mastery.
- Students are highly encouraged to initiate the request to do extra work to demonstrate mastery by emailing their teachers once they have received their report cards. Student initiation demonstrates student responsibility and commitment to their academic success.
- By the deadlines mentioned above, teachers will determine if mastery has been achieved through the supplemental work completed by the student.

The letter grade "I" (Incomplete) may be assigned to a student who has been absent due to extenuating circumstances and has not had enough time to complete the necessary work in that marking period. Students are responsible for making up all incomplete work within two weeks of the end of the marking

period. If the work is not completed, the grade may be calculated with zero credit given for the missing assignments. Written requests for extensions may be submitted by parents/guardians stating the reason for the request (for example, severe illness). Approval of extensions is not automatic. The letter grade "NG" (No Grade) may be assigned to a student who has not completed enough of the course to receive a grade.

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 2.1.

## **G. Attendance and Make-Up Work**

---

When a student is absent (either excused or unexcused) it is the responsibility of the student to make up all work missed, including in-class assignments. The teacher will decide on the appropriate amount of time for make-up work. Work which was assigned prior to the absence and due on the day of the absence must be passed in upon the student's return to class. Missed assignments and class work should be obtained from Google Classroom or Alma, or if further clarification is needed, the teachers.

Students absent on the day of a quiz or test must make arrangements with the teacher on the day of return for make-up. Students may not be given tests or quizzes in advance of an absence without prior permission.

The Founders Academy regulations in relationship to attendance, absenteeism and truancy are based on the following New Hampshire statutes and administrative rules, as well as additional rules as needed:

### Legal References Related to Attendance:

RSA 189:34, Appointment

RSA 189:35-a, Truancy Defined

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:7 Penalty

RSA 193:8, Notice Requirements

RSA 193:16 Bylaws as to Nonattendance

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (a)(1), Attendance and Absenteeism

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (c), Policy Relative to Attendance and Absenteeism"

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 3.2.

## **H. Semester Overview of Subjects Covered**

---

Upon completion of this course, among other things, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the what sound is and how it travels
- Identify and label the parts of a sound wave

- Define and explain the significance of the major parts of the  
[ENTER: Include how you grade in your course, as well as your homework policies.]

"The academic year is divided into four quarters. The school will email end of quarter report cards only to 'primary contacts' and students on [@tfanh.org](mailto:@tfanh.org) email addresses." See Student Handbook, section 2.2.

For classes not eligible for high school credit, mid-term and final assessment grades will be factored into quarters 2 and 4 and graded according to the testing standards set by individual faculty.

Quarter 1 – 25%  
 Quarter 2 – 25%  
 Quarter 3 – 25%  
Quarter 4 – 25%  
 Full Year Grade – 100%

For classes that are eligible for high school credit, mid-term and final exam grades are factored into final grades as follows:

For Full Year Courses:	For One Semester Courses:
Quarter 1 – 20% Quarter 2 – 20% Mid-Term – 10% Quarter 3 – 20% Quarter 4 – 20% <u>Final Assessment – 10%</u> Full Year Grade – 100%	Quarter 1 or 3 – 40% Quarter 2 or 4 – 40% <u>Final Assessment – 20%</u> Final Grade – 100%

The Grade Scale used at Founders is as follows:

A+ - 98–100%	A+ = 4.33
A – 94-97%	A = 4.0
A- - 90-93%	A- = 3.67
B+ - 87-89%	B+ = 3.33



B – 84-86%	B = 3.0
B- - 80-83%	B- = 2.67
C+ - 77-79%	C+ = 2.33
C – 74-76%	C = 2.0
C- - 70-73%	C- = 1.67
D+ - 67-69%	D+ = 1.33
D – 64-66%	D = 1.0
D- - 60-63%	D- = 0.67
F – 59% and below	F = 0

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 2.2 for more information

## **F. Mastery**

---

### **Definition of Mastery at The Founders Academy**

Mastery is the acquisition of a deep level of knowledge through meeting content specific benchmarks. Students develop a thorough understanding of the subject matter by consistently applying their skills and demonstrating strong command of the material.

### **Why “mastery?”**

Mastery ensures that the goal of a rigorous curriculum and high expectations are maintained at The Founders Academy. We do not simply require that students “pass” a course, but that they “master” the content of each course. Additionally, the process allows students whose mastery is in question at the end of a quarter or course to continue to work towards mastering the content, and to demonstrate their mastery for the purpose of moving forward to the next level of instruction in a particular subject area.

### **What is the “process?”**

1. The process includes benchmarks for assessment. This includes an assessment of mastery at the end of each quarter; students who earn grades of a B- or above are

considered masters of the content automatically. Mastery must be demonstrated in all courses in order to pass the course or to receive high school credit. The only exceptions to this policy are in middle school art, band, or chorus courses.

2. Students who earn cumulative grades of C- to C+ may still demonstrate mastery by completing additional work, at the teacher's discretion. The additional work must be completed within a specified window of time.
3. The process includes both teacher and student reflection. Quarterly benchmarks allow students, parents, and teachers to address any deficiencies in progress as the school year progresses. All should work to monitor student progress towards final course mastery through the school year.
4. Supplementary instruction is pivotal in this process. Students who do not demonstrate mastery with a semester or course grade of a B- or above may have the opportunity to demonstrate mastery at the end of the course by completing supplemental instruction, provided by the teacher.

#### **Course Mastery:**

At the end of a semester-long or full-year course, students who earn a grade of a B- or above will be considered masters of the content and automatically be promoted to the next level within that course's subject area (if there is one).

Students who earn a grade of C- through C+ will only pass the course/receive high school credit, and be allowed to proceed to the next level (if applicable), by completing additional work at the teacher's discretion to demonstrate mastery. The only exceptions to this policy are middle school art, band, and chorus courses.

For semester-long courses that are completed at the end of Semester 1, attempts for Mastery must be completed within 2 weeks of issuance of quarter 2 report cards. For courses that are completed at the end of the school year, mastery work must be completed within two weeks of the issuance of end of year report cards.

If a student demonstrates course mastery through completing supplementary work, their cumulative grade does not change.

#### **Forms of demonstrating mastery may include:**

Projects, Oral Exams, Written Exams, Exam Re-takes, Khan Academy, After School Tutoring, and other assignments deemed appropriate by teachers.

**Necessary Steps to Success of the Mastery Process:**

- Teachers must explain Mastery to their students clearly and frequently during the school year. It should be emphasized even more than the numeric value of the grade the student earns, as only mastery is used to determine if students progress to the next level in a subject area.
- Students must understand that a letter grade of a B- or higher at the end of the course determines whether mastery is automatically recognized.
- At the end of the course, only students who have earned a grade of C- through C+ may complete additional work to demonstrate mastery.
- Students are highly encouraged to initiate the request to do extra work to demonstrate mastery by emailing their teachers once they have received their report cards. Student initiation demonstrates student responsibility and commitment to their academic success.
- By the deadlines mentioned above, teachers will determine if mastery has been achieved through the supplemental work completed by the student.

The letter grade "I" (Incomplete) may be assigned to a student who has been absent due to extenuating circumstances and has not had enough time to complete the necessary work in that marking period. Students are responsible for making up all incomplete work within two weeks of the end of the marking period. If the work is not completed, the grade may be calculated with zero credit given for the missing assignments. Written requests for extensions may be submitted by parents/guardians stating the reason for the request (for example, severe illness). Approval of extensions is not automatic. The letter grade "NG" (No Grade) may be assigned to a student who has not completed enough of the course to receive a grade.

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 2.1.

**G. Attendance and Make-Up Work**

---

When a student is absent (either excused or unexcused) it is the responsibility of the student to make up all work missed, including in-class assignments. The teacher will decide on the appropriate amount of time for make-up work. Work which was assigned prior to the absence and due on the day of the absence must be passed in upon the student's return to class. Missed assignments and class work should be obtained from Google Classroom or Alma, or if further clarification is needed, the teachers. Students absent on the day of a quiz or test must make arrangements with the teacher on the day of return for make-up. Students may not be given tests or quizzes in advance of an absence without prior permission.

The Founders Academy regulations in relationship to attendance, absenteeism and truancy are based on the following New Hampshire statutes and administrative rules, as well as additional rules as needed:

Legal References Related to Attendance:

RSA 189:34, Appointment

RSA 189:35-a, Truancy Defined

RSA 193:1, Duty of Parent; Compulsory Attendance by Pupil

RSA 193:7 Penalty

RSA 193:8, Notice Requirements

RSA 193:16 Bylaws as to Nonattendance

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (a)(1), Attendance and Absenteeism

NH Code of Administrative Rules, Section Ed 306.04 (c), Policy Relative to Attendance and Absenteeism"

See The Founders Academy Student Handbook, section 3.2.

## **H. Yearly Overview of Subjects Covered**

---

Basic music theory including notation, scales, chords, key areas and 4-part voice leading.  
Multi-track recording, editing and mixing via contemporary computer technology and hardware.

## **I. References and Videos**

---

Video study can also extend lessons and support research:

Parents and students should expect that students will be shown videos and hear music as a part of their work in the class. These videos typically present examples of, and further information about the scientific principles we study. NOTE: Occasionally, students will be provided links to carefully selected YouTube\* videos that extend or reinforce skills taught in class. They are carefully selected, previewed by me, and are "G" rated. Parents are asked to

contact me if you do not want your child to receive or view internet links with regards to these YouTube videos.

-END-