

AP Music Theory Rouse High School

Course Long Plan – Brief Description of Course

Course Description: AP Music Theory is an advanced – level music course. Students in this class will work towards a deeper understanding of the various building blocks of music: melody, harmony, rhythm, meter, texture, and form. Students will seek to develop music writing skills through analysis, composition, and notation. They will improve their musicianship through listening skills, sight-singing, and harmonization at the keyboard and by singing. The work in this class is equivalent to a first year college music theory class and culminates with the AP exam. The Student's ability to read and write musical notation is fundamental to this course and the student must have adequate performance skills in either voice or an instrument.

Expectations of Students

1. Students will participate in all classroom discussions and activities.
2. Students will complete all assigned exercises and readings.
3. Students will keep and maintain a Music Theory notebook, which will include class notes, handouts, assignments, and listening logs.
4. Students will study the released AP exams and take practice tests to prepare for the exam.

Supplies for class

2 inch Binder,

1 set of 5 tab dividers

- Notes
- Sightreading
- Dictation
- Partwriting
- Worksheets

Unit Information

Unit Name or Timeframe:

Week 1-2

Written Skills: Basic Notation: staff, clefs, octave, ledger lines, grand staff, half steps, whole steps, intervals, chromatic steps, enharmonic, accidentals.

Aural Skills: Simple meters, rhythm and beat, tempo, accents, dots, ties, rests, dynamics and articulation markings

Sight-singing Skills: Solfege Syllables, diatonic scales and Curwin Hand-signs

Weeks 3-4

Written Skills: Pitch Collections: Major Scales including chromatic, whole tone, pentatonic, and key signatures. Memorize key signatures and order of sharps and flats.

Aural Skills: half and whole-step intervals, call and response, contextual listening.

Sight-singing Skills: singing and signing major scales and working on intervallic relationship.

Four Week test to determine skills to this point – this is the end of the 4 week window for Pre-AP/AP Schedule changes.

Weeks 5

Written Skills: Minor scales including natural/harmonic/melodic minor scales, minor key signatures including relative and parallel, diatonic modes and pentatonic scales. Pitch Intervals

Aural Skills: Compound Meters, rhythmic dictation, melodic dictation of scales, interval dictation, beginning of modes.

Sight-singing Skills: Sight-singing conjunct, tonal melodies from texts as well as modes.

1st 6 weeks exam for grade check: written key signatures, major/minor scales, modes. Aural: familiar melodies, and modes. Sight-singing: scales (major and minor), hand signs, simple melodies (conjunct) and modes (determining type of mode by visual and aural methods).

Weeks 6-7

Written Skills: Pitch Intervals including value, quality, Major scale, enharmonic intervals, inversions of intervals, diatonic vs. chromatic. Review minor scales

Aural Skills: interval dictation in relation to solfege and identifying quality

Sight-Singing: Intervals and inversions.

Weeks 8-9

Written Skills: Triads and 7th Chords. Triads major, minor, diminished/augmented; Chord inversions. Building and identifying 7th chords.

Aural Skills: Chords in root position, identify quality of chords, identify quality of scales: major, minor, pentatonic, whole tones), conjunct melodic dictation.

Sight-singing Skills: Singing chords using solfege, scale degree names, and note names; signing chords in all qualities.

Weeks 10-11

Written Skills: Chord Symbols and figured bass; introduction to roman numerals; inversions on triads and 7th chords; Roman numeral analysis.

Aural Skills: Identification of chords in any inversion, contextual listening; melodic dictation

Sight-signing Skills: Intervals of the fourth and fifth, intervals of the sixth; practice with melodic solo and duet lines.

Weeks 12-13

Written Skills: Intro to Part Writing: vertical and horizontal rules (melodic lines, parallel motion, root position part writing including doubling and 2nd inversions)

Aural Skills: Learning to hear and sing bass lines; simple harmonic progressions, identifying phrases and basic cadences.

Sight-singing: Chords and arpeggios in inversion, group singing of simple progressions

Weeks 14 (1 class period)- Thanksgiving week

Written Skills: Matrix Revolution

Weeks 15-16

Written Skills: Part Writing Continued: Melodic structure and cadences, non-harmonic tones, chord progressions.

Aural Skills: Identifying chord progressions, melodic dictation, begin harmonic dictation of bass and soprano lines.

Sight-singing: Singing soprano, alto, tenor, and bass lines of Bach 4pt chorales

Week 17

Midterm exam and review

Written Skills: Chord building and identification, chord progressions, chord analysis (all 7th chords and inversions)

Aural Skills: identification of 7th chord qualities, melodic dictation, harmonic dictation of soprano and bass line chord progression identification.

Sight Singing Skills: melodies with intervals of 4th, 5th, and 6th.

Second Semester

Week 18

Written Skills: Review of part writing to this point including Roman numeral chord analysis, 7th chord inversions, and qualities.

Aural Skills: Identifying Chord progressions, melodic dictation, begin harmonic dictation of bass and soprano lines.

Sight-reading Skills: Reviewing intervals using Bach chorales.

Weeks 19-20

Written Skills: Harmonizing a melody and part writing for SATB with inversions and nonchord tones. (4 voice part writing) Phrase structure of motives and melodic form.

Aural Skills: Listening to contrapuntal lines, embellishing triads

Sight-singing Skills: Chromatic Solfege Syllables, hand signs and scale-degree numbers

Weeks 20-21

Written Skills: Cadences: Authentic, Perfect Authentic, Plagal Cadence, Half-Cadence, Deceptive Cadence

Aural Skills: outer voices, and cadences

Sight-singing Skills: Continue building on skills and working toward independent reading.

Week 22

Written Skills: Dominant 7th Chords (V7) and leading tone 7th (vii^o)

Aural Skills: expanded melodic dictation, continued harmonic progressions, progressions with all forms of 7th chords.

Sight-singing Skills: arpeggiation of 7th chords in all inversions.

Week 23

Written Skills: Secondary dominants and secondary leading tones

Aural Skills: harmonic progressions, chord recognition, melodic and harmonic dictation (2 or more parts)

Sight-singing Skills: Use chord matrix to identify each part SATB and Sight Read Texas All State Choir Sight-singing exercises.

Week 24

Written Skills: Expanded study of 6/4 chords including cadential and passing 6/4 chords.

Aural Skills: more chord recognition, cadence identification, form identification.

Sight-singing Skills: Melodic sight-singing with non-harmonic tones, 2pt melodic material in groups.

Week 25

Written Skills: Identifying secondary dominants in part-writing; voice leading and analysis; anticipation and suspension.

Aural Skills: 3 part dictation, melodic dictation with error detection

Sight-singing Skills: continued chord matrix singing in 4pt harmony, continue with Bach Chorales.

Week 26

Written Skills: Small Forms: simple, binary, rounded binary, rounded binary, ternary form, and theme and variations.

Aural Skills: Listen to samples of various forms.

Sight-reading: Continue building independent reading skills and tricks of the trade.

Week 27 & 28

Written Skills: Continue with secondary triads, modulation through common diatonic chords, key relationships

Aural Skills: continued chord recognition, cadence ID, form ID.

Sight-reading Skills: Continue building independent reading skills using All-State music.

Week 29

Exam review and test

Written Skills: Part writing, secondary triads, modulations

Aural Skills: identify modulation by common chord or alteration, harmonic dictation with 3 parts

Sight-singing Skills: individualized test over an all-state audition exercise.

Week 30 – 33

Review for AP Tests

AP exam using released exam excerpts, free-response questions and scoring guidelines.

Sight-reading excerpts from past exams.

Week 34

Prepare and take the AP music exam.

Weeks 35-37

Compose a 16 measure composition using Finale Print Music. The original composition should be for 4 part instruments or voices. They must present and perform this final project for the class as their Final Exam.

Aural and sight-reading quizzes will be given on a regular basis.