

AUGUST

AP Music Theory Resources

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Monthly Goals

August	<ul style="list-style-type: none">★ Identify notes in treble, bass, and C clefs★ Sing solfege major scale along with a piano★ Buy a review book for APMT (optional)
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Note Identification

One of the most fundamental parts of music theory is reading notes from sheet music. Before September, you must be completely comfortable reading notes from treble and bass clefs. If you play an instrument that reads primarily in treble clef, you are probably strong there, but you will have to work on reading in bass clef. And vice versa. This is where playing piano gives you an advantage! Even if you are good at reading notes, practicing is still a good idea.

Do you know what movable C clefs are? These are clefs where the clef symbol can move. But the easy part is that it is always centered on middle C. Look at the picture below. Every note is exactly the same - it's middle C!



You won't have to know the names of the clefs except for treble, bass, and alto. And on the AP exam, you'll only have to write music in treble and bass clef. However, moveable C clefs are very important to know because they will show up in the MCQ (multiple choice question) section of the exam. Violas read in alto clef, so you will often see alto clef in music for a string quartet.

How to Practice this Skill:

- ★ [Link to musictheory.net](#) - Grand Staff Note Identification (treble & bass)
- ★ [Link to musictheory.net](#) - Treble, Bass, and Alto Clef Note Identification
- ★ [Link to musictheory.net](#) - All Clef Note Identification (even the obscure ones)

Singing

If you're like many high school students, you are regretting signing up for APMT because you didn't know there would be singing involved. But don't worry! The singing section of the AP exam is very manageable, even if you have no previous singing experience. You just have to be willing to practice. If you are nervous to sing in front of someone else, you can practice by yourself, in your room, or in the shower. Another great strategy is to record yourself periodically so you can listen to yourself and figure out what you need to work on.

Since we're just getting started in August, a good goal is to be able to sing a major scale along with a piano accompaniment (or any instrument, but I usually suggest a piano for a few reasons). If you don't have a piano available, you can go [here](#) for an online piano.

You will learn later about what a major scale consists of, but for now we will practice singing it. Throughout this series of resources I will suggest that you use moveable-Do solfege. This is a system where the tonic of any key is always Do. A video is linked below to hear what a major scale sounds like.

[Here](#) is a video with pitches in C Major.

[Here](#) is a document and page 1 will help you to play these scales on the piano to sing along to.

As you sing a major scale, sing the following pitches up, then down.

Major Scale Solfege: Do Re Mi Fa So La Ti Do Ti La So Fa Mi Re Do

How to Practice this Skill:

- ★ Sing a major scale using solfege and playing along on a piano.
- ★ Try to sing the major scale without the piano accompaniment.
- ★ Try singing in different keys and find one that works well with your voice.

Consider Ordering a Review Book

I highly recommend the [Barrons APMT book](#). It comes with 2 full practice tests and a TON of audio practice samples. Order the book as early as you can so they don't get out of stock!

QUESTIONS?

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