

MRHS Music Theory

MANCHESTER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC THEORY

REVISED & ADOPTED September 2017

MRHS Music Theory

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MANCHESTER REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

MUSIC THEORY

COURSE PHILOSOPHY

Ever wonder how music works? Music Theory will examine the language and notation of music, as well as patterns and structures found across or within genres, styles, or historical periods. This course is crafted to provide students with the fundamentals of music writing. The skills learned will hopefully help students to understand and enjoy music as an art form.

Grade Level: 9 - 12

Course Title: Music Theory

Credits: 5

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Music Theory I Credits: 5

Department: Music

Course Philosophy

“Musical training is a more potent instrument than any other, because rhythm, harmony, and melody find their way into the inward place of our soul, on which they mightily fasten, imparting grace, and making the soul of him who is educated graceful.” - Plato

MRHS Music Theory

We believe our music theory curriculum should provide quality experiences that are musically meaningful to the education of all our students. It should help them discover, understand and enjoy music as an art form, an intellectual endeavor, a medium of self-expression, and a means of social growth.

Music is considered basic to the total educational program. To each new generation this portion of our heritage is a source of inspiration, enjoyment, and knowledge which helps to shape a way of life. Our music curriculum enriches and maintains this life and draws on our nation and the world for its ever-expanding course content, taking the student beyond the realm of the ordinary, everyday experience.

Music is an art that expresses emotion, indicates mood, and helps students to respond to their environment. It develops the student's character through its emphasis on responsibility, self-discipline, leadership, concentration, and respect for and awareness of the contributions of others. Music contains technical, psychological, artistic, and academic concepts. It is an integral part of life and therefore should be studied to further enrich the lives of our students.

Course Description

Music Theory I is design to develop skills in; reading music, listening to sounds and being able to identify and describe, discussing and analyzing music, so that beginning students will have a background to use in furthering his/her study of music. The student follows a progressive study of the writing and composing of music. Musical understandings are basic knowledge of how music works as a language and how to use this language to communicate with others.

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COURSE DATA:

Length of Course: One Year

Credits: Five

Periods Per Week: Five

Classification: Elective--Grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

EVALUATION:

The purpose of evaluation is to provide information about student progress and to determine if students have learned the subject matter which has been taught. The teacher will evaluate student's progress by written tests, quizzes, vocal performance, homework, daily participation and written reports.

GRADING STRUCTURE:

Benchmark for mastery of course content is 65%; content mastery for students with IEPs may be less than the Board of Education approved minimum for regular education students.

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Relevant Standards	Enduring Understandings	Essential Questions	Assessments		
			Diagnostic (before)	Formative (during)	Summative (after)
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	Notation and its study are fundamental to the universal language of music.	What is a staff and how does it relate to notes and pitch? How are the notes identified on the staff? How do the notes on a staff relate to the keyboard?	Pretest Student Survey Oral Questions/ Discussion Anticipatory Set Questions	Quizzes Chapter Test Written Assignments Oral Presentations Observations Participatory Rubrics Research Assignments	Projects Mid Terms Final Exam
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	The scales are the backbone of harmonic language.	How does a scale work? What part do accidentals play in a scale? Why are there different scales and how are they used? Why are scale modes important? How are the modes used in music?			
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	The distance between two or three notes is one of the most fundamental parts of music writing.	Why are intervals essential to music? How many intervals are found in music? Why are triads the backbone of harmonization?			
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	The seventh chord allows the composer to emphasize movement in modern music.	Why is the dominant 7 th chord (V7) chord so important? How is the dominant 7 th chord used in different tonalities (major/minor)? How are other 7 th chords important in music?			
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	The inversion of chords widens the possibilities of music writing.	What are inversions of a triad? What are inversions of a 7 th chord? How do to use inversions?			

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1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	Harmony and rhythm are the ties that bind Western music.	How does harmony affect music? How is Western music different from music around the world? What are the basic chord progressions found in Western music? How does rhythm affect chord progressions?			
1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4	All of the basic techniques of music writing are employed in figured bass.	How is figured bass an example of simple music writing? How is figured bass the perfect exercise for applying your knowledge of basic music theory? How did the Baroque period influence the chord progressions of today?			

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Unit Title	Unit Understandings and Goals	Recommended Duration
Unit #1: The Staff, Notes and Pitch	Notation and its study are fundamental to the universal language of music. The students will be able to recognize pitch and note values in treble and bass clef and relate them to the keyboard.	3 weeks
Unit #2: Major and Minor Scales	The scales are the backbone of harmonic language. The students will be able to construct scales and have a basic understanding of tonality.	4 weeks
Unit #3: Scale Modes	The scales are the backbone of harmonic language The students will be able to expand their understanding of what a scale is and how it functions.	2 weeks
Unit #4: Intervals and Triads	The distance between two or three notes is one of the most fundamental parts of music writing. The student will be able to understand the relationships between notes and how to construct a basic triad.	4 weeks
Unit #5: Seventh Chords	The seventh chord allows the composer to emphasize movement in modern music. The student will recognize and construct seventh chords in any scale.	4 weeks
Unit # 6: Chord Inversions	The inversion of chords widens the possibilities of music writing. The student will be able manipulate the notes in a chord to create different sound structure.	4 weeks
Unit #7: Harmony	Harmony and rhythm are the ties that bind Western music. The student will be able to have a basic understanding on the rules of 18 th century harmony.	6 weeks
Unit #8: Basic Figured Bass	All of the basic techniques of music writing are employed in figured bass. The student will be able to apply the knowledge of pitch, scales, intervals and chords to create a four part harmonic sequence.	7 weeks

Unit #1: The Staff, Notes and Pitch

Enduring Understanding: Notation and its study are fundamental to the universal language of music.

Essential Questions: What is a staff and how does it relate to notes and pitch?

How are the notes identified on the staff?

How do the notes on a staff relate to the keyboard?

Unit Goal: The students will be able to recognize pitch and note values in treble and bass clef and relate them to the keyboard.

Duration of Unit: 3 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What is the five line staff? What is the treble clef and staff? What is the bass clef and staff?	Line and space orientation. Creating a treble clef and placing it on the staff Creating a bass clef and placing it on the staff	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
How do you identify notes written in both the treble and bass clefs?	Names of notes based on the clef.			
What are the grand staff and ledger lines? How is each note on the staff related to the keyboard?	Reading a double staff, understanding break of octaves between staves. Relating visual of a keyboard keys and notes. Finding is middle C on the keyboard.			
Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				

Unit #2: Major and Minor Scales

Enduring Understanding: The scales are the backbone of harmonic language.
Essential Questions: How does a scale work?
 What part do accidentals play in a scale?
 Why are there different scales and how are they used?
Unit Goal: The students will be able to construct scales and have a basic understanding of tonality.
Duration of Unit: 4 weeks
NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
How do you build a scale? What makes a scale major or minor? What is a natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scale?	Configuration of whole and half steps and the differentiating between major and minor. Alteration of notes on all three permutations of the minor scales.	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
What are accidentals? When are sharps or flats used?	Visual instruction with keyboard and introduction to naturals sharps and flats. Keeping accidentals consistent during scale build.			
What are key signatures? What is the circle of fifths?	Writing key signatures in both the treble and bass clefs? Importance of the circle of fifths and how it works.			
<p>Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				

Unit #3: Scale modes

Enduring Understanding: The scales are the backbone of harmonic language.
Essential Questions: Why are scale modes important?
 How are the modes used in music?
Unit Goal: The students will be able to expand their understanding of what a scale is and how it functions.
Duration of Unit: 2 weeks
NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What are scale modes? How to build a mode in any major scale? How do these names relate to their scales; Ionian, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian?	Scale degrees, number of notes, key signatures. Placement of whole and half steps. Naming the modes in relation to the scale degree of a major scale	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
Why are the modes important in music writing?	Harmonization, jazz improvisation, tonality			
<p>Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				

Unit #4: Intervals and Triads

Enduring Understanding: The distance between two or three notes is one of the most fundamental parts of music writing.

Essential Questions: Why are intervals essential to music?
 How many intervals are found in music?
 Why are triads the backbone of harmonization?

Unit Goal: The student will be able to understand the relationships between notes and how to construct a basic triad.

Duration of Unit: 4 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
How do you define an interval?	Distance within the staff line and spaces	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
What are perfect intervals? What are Major intervals? What are minor intervals? What are augmented and diminished intervals?	Unisons, 4ths, 5ths, octaves and their use. 2 ^{nds} , 3 ^{rds} , 6 ^{ths} , 7 ^{ths} and their difference from perfect intervals 2 ^{nds} , 3 ^{rds} , 6 ^{ths} , 7 ^{ths} In relation to perfect and major intervals.			
How do you build a triad? What makes a triad major or minor? What makes a triad diminished or augmented? What kinds of triads are found within major and minor scales?	Building your snowman (stacking thirds) and intervals between notes Alteration of the third. Alteration of the third and fifth. Building triads on each scale degree of a major or minor scale.			

Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:

- Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods
- A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience.

Unit #5: Seventh Chords

Enduring Understanding: The seventh chord allows the composer to emphasize movement in modern music.

Essential Questions: Why is the dominant 7th chord (V7) chord so important?

How is the dominant 7th chord used in different tonalities (major/minor)?

How are other 7th chords important in music?

Unit Goal: The student will recognize and construct a dominant seventh chord.

Duration of Unit: 4 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What is a dominant 7 th chord and why is it called dominant? How do you build a dominant 7 th chord?	In relation to scale and key signature. Addition of a 7 th to a triad.	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
Why is the dominant 7 th chord such a pivotal chord?	Use of chord in both major minor progressions.			
How are all 7 th chords built? How to manipulate a 7 th chord to make it major/minor/augmented/diminished?	Intervals between root, 3 rd , 5 th and 7 th . Alteration of 3 rd , 5 th and 7 th			
<p>Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				

Unit #6: Chord Inversions

Enduring Understanding: The inversion of chords widens the possibilities of music writing.

Essential Questions: What are inversions of a triad?

What are inversions of a 7th chord?

How do to use inversions?

Unit Goal: The student will be able to manipulate the notes in a chord to create different sound structure.

Duration of Unit: 4 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What is a root position triad? What is an open or closed position chord? What is a 1 st inversion triad? What is a 2 nd inversion triad?	Manipulation of the positioning of the root, third and fifth. Intervals created by the position change.	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
What is a 1 st inversion 7 th chord? What is a 2 nd inversion 7 th chord? What is a 3 rd inversion 7 th chord?	Manipulation of the positioning of the root, third, fifth and seventh. Intervals created by the position change.	Class discussion Internet		
Why is it useful to manipulate note positioning (inversion)?	Ease of play, keyboard fingering, voice ease			

Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:

- Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods
- A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience.

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Unit #7: Harmony

Enduring Understanding: Harmony and rhythm are the ties that bind Western music.

Essential Questions: How does harmony affect music?

How is Western music different from music around the world?

What are the basic chord progressions found in Western music?

How does rhythm affect chord progressions?

Unit Goal: The student will be able to have a basic understanding on the rules of 18th century harmony.

Duration of Unit: 6 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What is harmony and how does it affect the melody?	Addition of notes under a melody, complementation of melody.	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano,	Lecture Power Point presentation	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets
What is a <i>Major Chord Progression</i> ? What is a basic minor progression? How would you use chords found naturally in a major scale? How would you resolve other chords?	Use of the I, IV and V chord. Use of i, iv V7 chords Use of ii, iii, vi and viio chords. Use of iio, III+ and other augmented and diminished chords.	Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Project assessments Optional: Student performance
How do scale degrees found in chords change the resolution of them? How does rhythm affect the resolution of chords?	Use of dominant and secondary dominant chords? Use of passing and neighbor tones			
<p>Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				

Unit #8: Basic Figure Bass

Enduring Understanding: Notation and its study are fundamental to the universal language of music.

Essential Questions: What is a staff and how does it relate to notes and pitch?

How are the notes identified on the staff?

How do the notes on a staff relate to the keyboard?

Unit Goal: The students will be able to recognize pitch and note values in treble and bass clef and relate them to the keyboard.

Duration of Unit: 3 weeks

NJCCCS: 1.1.12.B.1, 1.3.12.B.1-4

Guiding / Topical Questions	Content, Themes, Concepts, and Skills	Instructional Resources and Materials	Teaching Strategies	Assessment Strategies
What are the basic symbols of figured bass? What do the roman numerals mean in figured bass? What is a parallel fifth? What is a parallel fourth? What is a parallel octave? What is an authentic, perfect authentic, imperfect authentic, half, plagal or deceptive cadence?	Use of 6, 6/4, 4/3 and 4/2 inversions Use of I,ii,iii, IV, V, vi and vii to identify chords. Use of passing and neighbor tones in parallel motion chords. Resolutions of chords in certain settings.	Current textbook Work sheets Staff Paper Piano, Keyboard Class discussion Internet	Lecture Power Point presentation Notation software (Sibelius, Finale) Project	Written tests and quizzes Worksheets Project assessments Optional: Student performance
What are augmented sixth chords and their use? How does modulation affect a figured bass?	Italian, German and French sixth chords. Use of V/V chords			
<p>Suggestions on how to differentiate in this unit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students with individual learning styles can be assisted through adjustments in assessment standards, one-to-one teacher support, additional testing time, and use of visual and auditory teaching methods • A wide variety of assessments and strategies complement the individual learning experience. 				