

Music Theory

Course Outline

Course # 851
Level CP-A 1.12
Credits: 5
Revised May 2008

Prerequisite: Chorus, Band, Piano Lab or Permission of Instructor

Course Description:

Music Theory is open to sophomore, junior, and senior music students interested in learning the fundamentals and structure of music. In the first half of the year the student is exposed to basic music theory procedures, rudimentary ear training and composition.

High Point Regional High School's curriculum and instruction are aligned to the State's Core Curriculum Content Standards and address the elimination of discrimination by narrowing the achievement gap, by providing equity in educational programs and by providing opportunities for students to interact positively with others regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability or socio-economical status.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate basic skills in melody, rhythm, harmony, and ear training.
2. Analyze the harmonic structure of music using diatonic triads.
3. Compose and harmonize a simple melody.

Concepts/Skills

5 Weeks

The staff, treble and staff bass clef

The grand staff, ledger lines

Whole, half, quarter notes. Whole, half, quarter rests. The dotted half note, eighth notes and eighth rests, dotted quarter notes, sixteenth notes and rests, dotted eighth notes

Measures, bar lines

Common time and note values, 2/4 & 3/4 time

Ties and slurs

Repeat signs, first and second endings, D.C., D.S., Coda and Fine

Accidentals; flats, sharps, and naturals

Whole and half steps

Chromatic Scale, Major Scales

Dynamics, tempo markings

4 Weeks

Key Signatures and Circle of Fifths

Intervals

6/8 & 3/8 Time

Triplets and syncopation

Major and minor chords and triads

Chords related to a key – I, IV, V, I

4 Weeks

Dominant seventh chord
Inversions
Inversions of the dominant seventh chord
Transposition
Augmented and diminished chords
I, vi, ii, V7, I progression

4 Weeks

Natural minor
Harmonic minor
Melodic minor
Harmonizing a melody
Passing tones and neighboring tones
Composing a melody
Implementation of Technology: Finale music writing program

1 Week

Review and mid-term exam

In the second half of the year, instruction continues with diatonic chord progressions in root position, then with inversions. When sufficiently prepared, students begin composing original material, applying the skills learned in class and also adding more advance concepts of traditional harmonic structure.

Objectives

1. Demonstrate basic skills with diatonic chord progressions in root position and inversions.
2. Analyze the harmonic structure of music using diatonic triads in root position and inversions.
3. Create original compositions using traditional harmonic structures.

Concepts/Skills

1 Week

Review of intervals and triads

4 Weeks

The cadence in relation to form
Perfect and imperfect authentic cadences
Semi cadences
SATB Voice ranges
Doubling
Open and closed position
Spacing between adjacent voices
Conventional procedures of voice leading using tonic and dominant triads
Subdominant triad
Plagal cadences (perfect and imperfect)
The IV (or iv) V progression

Parallel fifths and octaves
The melodic augmented second

4 Weeks

Phrases and periods
 Melodic composition
C clefs
 Transposing instruments
The triad in first inversion and second inversion
 Cadential six-four chord, Stationary six-four chord, Passing six-four chord
 Writing to or from a first inversion triad
 Writing consecutive first inversion triads
 Figured Bass

4 Weeks

Harmonic progression in major and minor keys
 The supertonic triad and leading tone triad
Writing passing and neighboring tones
 Suspensions
 Appoggiatura and echapee
Dominant seventh chord
 Supertonic seventh chord
Root movement by downward thirds and fifths

4 Weeks

The deceptive cadence
 The vi-iii-IV progressions
 Inversions of mediant and submediant triads
The phrase group and double period
 Introduction to chromaticism
Secondary dominant chords
 Modulation

1 Week

Review and exam

Activities/Materials

Text/Workbook: The Music Kit by Tom Manoff
Text: Practical Theory, Sandy Feldstein
 Text: Elementary Harmony by Robert W. Ottman
2. Piano
3. Blackboard
4. Manuscript paper

Methods of evaluation

In addition to periodic quizzes, students will be tested at least twice during each marking period. Students will be given a music theory exam at the conclusion of the semester.