Advanced Music Theory & Technology

Full-year course, meets alternate days / 2.5 Credits
Prerequisites: Pass the Basic Music Theory Test, or take Music Theory & Technology I course

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Course Description

Advanced Music Theory is a course designed for high school students who want to expand and enhance the basic skills of a serious high school musician, and those concepts learned in Music Theory I. Music composition, melodic practices, theory of harmony and other musical concepts will be studied. Students will learn to construct (compose) music concepts and identify them by ear (aural) and written on the page (visual). This is not however, an AP Music Theory class.

Core Concepts / Skills

Review

- Rhythm and Pitch: Meter, basic notation, clefs, accidentals, grand staff
- Key signatures: Major/minor
- Scales: Major, minor, chromatic, whole tone, blues
- Relative and parallel minor keys, tonality, circle of 5ths
- Intervals
- Musical Vocabulary: Dynamics, articulations, tempo & rehearsal markings

Harmony

- Proper Names: Dominant, Tonic, etc.
- Construction of Diatonic Triads in Major/minor
- Diatonic Seventh Chords in Major/minor
- Triads & inversions
- Roman numerals, figured bass – realization of figured bass
- Cadence types
- Secondary dominants
- Texture Types: Monophonic, polyphonic, homophonic, homorhythmic

Melody

- Modes
- Transposition
- Use of Suspensions
- Composing original melodies
- Harmonizing a Melody
- Melodic Organization: Structure, motive, sequence, phrase, period

Music Software

- Tutorials & Projects using the Music Technology Lab's software programs & online resources

Aural Skills

- Melodic & Rhythmic Dictation
- Sight Singing
- Individual student practice using Auralia

Projects

- Original melodic & harmonic composition using Sibelius & MusicFirst
- Analyze a Bach chorale with roman numerals & figured bass and identifying cadences. The Bach chorale will be projected on the classroom screen and each student will discuss the melodic structure and chord progression.
- Listening Projects demonstrating topics covered in class
- Sequencing projects using Garageband

Grading Policy

In Music Theory, students' grades reflect INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT. A student will not be graded against their classmates' academic and/or skill ability, but rather against their own POTENTIAL. Grades will be comprised of the following criteria:

- Written & Aural Quizzams; Individual & Group Projects **(80%)**
- Homework **(10%)**
- Daily preparedness & class participation **(10%)**

Materials

- Musicians Guide to Theory & Analysis text. Clendinning & Marvin.
- Selections from Musicians Guide to Theory & Analysis workbook.
- Selections from Music in Theory and Practice text. Benward & Saker.
- Supplemental theory sheets, musical excerpts, & listening logs provided by Ms. Moss
- iMacs & MIDI Synthesizers in Music/Communications Lab
- Sibelius 6.2.0, Auralia 4.0.1.10, Garageband 6.0.5, iTunes software
- Online assignments utilizing music theory web sites "in the cloud"

Online Resources

Please visit Ms. Moss' web site to for links to free online music theory resources & sites.

http://mossmusicnews.weebly.com/

Please bring to *every* class

- PENCILS, **NO funky colored pens or markers**
- Manuscript paper: you must purchase a manuscript book or print pages off the Internet
- 3-ring binder or folder - for theory handouts & assignments, notes, and manuscript paper