

# Music Theory & Technology

Full-year course, alternate days / 2.5 Credits / Prerequisites: Basic Music Knowledge Encouraged

Jennifer Moss, Teacher

Email: [jmoss@abschools.org](mailto:jmoss@abschools.org)

Web site: [mossmusicnews.weebly.com](http://mossmusicnews.weebly.com)

## Course Description

This course is designed as a beginning course in music theory for students who may, or may not already have a working knowledge of musical notation. The class covers standard music theory objectives, as well as concepts designed to encourage the development of well-rounded musicians.

## Core Concepts / Skills

- a) Pitch Names, Rhythmic Values, Musical Notation
- b) Key Signatures & Time Signatures
- c) Intervals
- d) Major and minor scales
- e) Triads and Inversions
- f) Diatonic and seventh chords in Major and minor
- g) Basic Chord Progressions & Voice Leading
- h) Blues Harmony
- i) Forms in Music
- j) Musical Vocabulary - dynamics, articulations, tempo & rehearsal markings
- k) Aural Skills/Ear Training (Auralia)
- l) Audio Sequencing (Garageband)
- m) Composition & Arranging (Sibelius & Noteflight)

## Grading Policy

In Music Theory, students' grades reflect INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENT. Students 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%)
- Daily preparedness & class participation (10%)
- Homework (10%)

## Materials

- Essentials of Music Theory, Complete Workbook. Surmani & Manus Alfred Pub. **\$12**
  - Students purchase this workbook from the Music Department & keep it at the end of the school year. (*Cash or checks made payable to AB Music Dept.*)
- Supplemental music theory sheets, musical excerpts, listening logs provided by Ms. Moss
- Lab Software such as Sibelius, Auralia, Garageband
- Online assignments utilizing music theory web sites
- Computers & MIDI Synthesizers in Music/Communications Lab

## Online Resources

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

<http://mossmusicnews.weebly.com/>

Here are a few you may consider utilizing to strengthen your skills learned in class:

- <http://www.emusictheory.com> - you may use the entire site for a fee, or just use their free drills on notes, chords, rhythm, etc.
- <http://www.good-ear.com> - ear training for intervals, chords, scales, & cadences
- <http://www.musicalintervalstutor.com> - practice hearing & identifying intervals
- <http://www.musictheory.net> - Ricci Adam's website, easy to use. The entire website is also available for download in a free offline edition.

## Projects:

- 2-part Rhythmic Composition with partner
- Listening Logs ("THMERF")
- Various Individual & Group Compositions & Arrangements
- Audio Sequencing projects

## **Please bring to *every* class:**

- **PENCILS**, NO funky colored pens or markers
- Your theory workbook - You purchase & keep this book for \$12. (See above)
- 3-ring binder or folder - for class notes, supplemental theory sheets, and listening logs.
- Manuscript paper: you may purchase this at any music store or print FREE pages online.

## Extra Help:

I am ALWAYS available for Extra Help by appointment. Please see me after class, or send me an email to arrange a time to meet.