

Music Theory and Ear Training Course Syllabus

Course: Music Theory and Ear Training II
Credit: One Carnegie Unit

Course Description

Music Theory and Ear Training II is required for graduation as a vocal or instrumental music major. It is for students who have completed the requirements of Piano-Theory and is the prerequisite for all other theory classes. This course covers the rudiments of music theory emphasizes basic musicianship skills: sight singing, ear training, and dictation.

Content Standards

DCPS music content standards make up the core skills, concepts and knowledge for Music Theory II:

1. Perform a variety of repertoire.
2. Improvise, compose, and arrange.
3. Read and notate music.
4. Listen, analyze, and evaluate.

These standards are incorporated in the course outline below.

Course Outline

The student will:

1. perform all tasks covered in Piano-Theory, with emphasis on reading and writing fluently in treble and bass clefs.
2. identify and write all major and minor key signatures; explain and construct a diagram of the circle of fifths.
3. identify on the page and by ear, sing,* write, and when possible play on the piano keyboard:
 - major and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales and tonic triads in keys to four sharps and flats, using accidentals as well as key signatures.
 - tonal patterns and melodies in major and minor keys to four sharps and flats in simple and compound meters utilizing scale passages and tonic triad arpeggios.
 - all major, minor, and perfect intervals within an octave and the augmented fourth and diminished fifth, identifying them by number and quality.
 - major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads on a given note.
 - diatonic triads on each degree of the major scale, identifying them by Roman numerals.
 - primary triad progressions in three voices in major and minor keys.

4. transpose diatonic melodies in major and minor keys to any given key.
5. identify by ear the major or minor tonality of a passage of music.
6. compose a short diatonic melody in a major or minor key according to given criteria.
7. perform, improvise, identify by ear, and write rhythm patterns:
 - values from whole to thirty-second notes and rests
 - equal and unequal divisions of the beat, including dotted rhythms, in all simple and compound meters (see attached sequence of rhythm patterns).
8. identify by ear and at sight simple or compound meter of a passage of music.
9. define and apply musical terms appropriate to all concepts learned.
10. demonstrate responsibility and commitment to music theory through regular attendance, participation, and preparation.

*Note: Students will sing all songs and exercises using solfege syllables (moveable “Do” system with minor tonic on “La”) and letter names, including accidentals (see attached singing requirements). Students will sing scales and chords by rote or from memory and will sight-read tonal patterns and melodies. See attached singing requirements.

Materials: Workbook or worksheets, sight-singing materials, pencil, eraser, manuscript paper, theory notebook.

Course Requirements

1. Students must be in class on time each day. Any absence must be supported by a note from home. Five or more unexcused absences within an advisory could result in failure for that advisory (see student handbook).
2. Students must take all tests, quizzes, and final examinations. Make-ups will be given only for excused absences.
3. Students must turn in all class assignments at the end of the class and homework assignments on the designated due date. A student who has missed a class for any reason, including legitimate school performances, must make up all class and homework assignments that were missed.
4. Students must keep a theory notebook with all class notes, completed assignments, and handouts.
5. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: pencil, eraser, theory notebook, workbook. All written work must be done in pencil.
6. Students may not eat, drink, or chew gum in class. Students may not bring radios, tape recorders, CD players, or headphones to class; the use of these items is strictly prohibited.

7. Students must participate in classwork. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated.

Grading will be based on the following areas, to be weighted at the discretion of the teacher:

- Class participation and performance
- Written class and homework assignments
- Tests and quizzes
- Final advisory examination
- Attendance

Duke Ellington School of the Arts Music Theory II Singing Requirements

Sing all exercises in a comfortable key, using solfege syllables. All exercises should be memorized.

Note: For the sake of convenience, exercises are notated in C major or a minor. In the moveable do system, no matter what the key signature is, the tonic note is always "do" in major keys and "la" in minor keys..

1. Major Scale

do re mi fa sol la ti do do ti la sol fa mi re do

2. Minor Scale

a. natural minor

la ti do re mi fa sol la la sol fa mi re do ti la

b. harmonic minor

la ti do re mi fa si la la si fa mi re do ti la

c. melodic minor

la ti do re mi fi si la la sol fa mi re do ti la

3. Diatonic Triads - major keys

I ii iii IV V vi vii° I

Triads are to be sung ascending and descending as follows:

I ii iii etc. I vii° vi etc.

4. Chromatic Scale, ascending and descending

do di re ri mi fa fi sol si la li ti do

do ti te la le sol se fa mi me re ra do

5. Intervals within the major scale

do re do mi do fa do sol do la do ti do do
2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th octave

do ti do la do sol do fa do mi do re do do
2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th octave

6. Intervals within the chromatic scale

do ra do re do me do mi do fa do fi do se do sol do le do la do te do ti do do
m2 M2 m3 M3 P4 A4 d5 P5 m6 M6 m7 M7 P8

do ti do te do la do le do sol do se do fi do fa do mi do me do re do ra do do
m2 M2 m3 M3 P4 A4 d5 P5 m6 M6 m7 M7 P8