

## **ACCELERATED PIANO TECHNIQUE AND MUSIC THEORY II COURSE SYLLABUS**

Course: Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory II

Credit: One Carnegie Unit

### **Course Description**

*Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory II* is required for graduation as a vocal music major. It is for students who have completed the requirements of *Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory I* and completes the prerequisite for all other theory classes. It satisfies the *Piano Lab II* requirement for vocal majors and the *Music Theory II* requirement for both vocal and instrumental majors. This course covers the rudiments of music theory and emphasizes basic musicianship skills in the areas of sight singing, ear training, and dictation. Basic piano fundamentals are explored: familiarization with keyboard theory, hand coordination, grand staff note reading, and an introduction to the standard intermediate piano literature.

### **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**

1. Perform all tasks covered in *Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory I*, with emphasis on reading and writing fluently in treble and bass clefs including identification, notation, reading and writing of all leger line notes above and below the staff.
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 play on the piano keyboard:
  - a. Major and natural, harmonic, and melodic minor scales and tonic triads in all keys within the Circle of Fifths using accidentals as well as key signatures
  - b. Tonal patterns and melodies in major and minor keys in all keys within the Circle of Fifths in simple and compound meters utilizing scale passages and tonic triad arpeggios.

- c. All major, minor, perfect, augmented and diminished intervals within an octave and the identification by number and quality of the listed intervals.
  - d. Major, minor, diminished, and augmented triads, on a given note.
  - e. Diatonic triads on each degree of the major scale, identifying them by Roman numerals.
  - f. 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 that include:
    - a. values from whole to thirty-second notes and rests
    - b. equal and unequal divisions of the beat, including dotted rhythms, in all simple and compound meters.
  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. Define and apply musical symbols appropriate to all concepts learned.
  11. Notate given melodies through melodic dictation exercises given in class.
  12. Identification, knowledge and function of technical scale degree terms such as: Tonic, Supertonic, Mediant, Subdominant, Dominant, Submediant and Leading-Tone.
  13. Analysis of given melodies and compositions. Students will learn to analyze and apply all terms used in class relating to Musical Form, Musical Texture, Symbols, Articulation Markings and other music theory fundamentals learned in class.
  14. Demonstrate responsibility and commitment to music theory through regular attendance, participation, and preparation.
  15. Notation skills with a given composition. Students will practice “rewriting” a given melody to perfect notation skills on musical staff.

\*Note: Students will sing all songs and exercises using solfège syllables (moveable "Do" system with minor tonic on "La") and letter names, including accidentals. Students will sing scales and chords by rote or from memory and will sight-read tonal patterns and melodies.

**Materials:** Theory notebook (3-ringed binder), pencil (with an eraser), and any materials given in class. Material check will be given during each class. Students must bring all materials to class. A designated number of points will be given during each meeting of the class for the material check.

### **Course Requirements**

1. Students must be in class on time each day. Fifteen tardies will result in failure of the course. A note must follow all unexcused absences from home to support the absence. Five to nine unexcused absences will result in a grade level reduction for a given advisor. Ten or more unexcused absences within an advisory result in an automatic “F” for a given advisory.
2. Students must take all tests, quizzes, and final examinations. Make-up tests for any missed tests will be given only for excused absences.
3. Piano proficiency exams will be administered at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarters. Skills to be assessed will be based on previous class keyboard assignments.
4. 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 performance, must make up all class and homework assignments that were missed.
5. Students must keep a separate theory notebook (3-ringed binder) with all class notes, completed assignments, and handouts. Notebook checks will be given throughout each advisory. A Notebook rubric will be given to each student listing the order of the assignments, and resources given in class. A grade will be given for submission of this notebook check.
6. Students must bring all required materials to class each day: pencil, eraser, music (when given in class) and all resources/handouts given in class. All work must be done in pencil.
7. Students may not eat, drink (except water), or chew gum in class. Students may not use cell phones, electronic devices or any items that will distract from instruction in class. Failure to comply with this guideline will affect the student’s grade.
8. Students must participate in class. Sleeping or misbehaving in class will not be tolerated. This behavior will affect the student’s overall grade.
9. Students must own or have access to a keyboard.
10. Students must keep their fingernails trimmed and at a length which will not affect hand position when playing the piano. Teachers will monitor and advise students to “trim their nails” should this requirement not be adhered to. Failure to comply with this guideline will affect the student’s grade.
11. In compliance with the “Dress code guidelines” of the Duke Ellington School of the Arts (please refer to the 2018 – 2019 student handbook) hats (baseball hats, knit hats, fashion hats) are not allowed to be worn in the classroom.

Grading:

Participation      10%

Practice & Application    50%

Assessment                40%

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used in evaluating and reporting each student's progress:

- A      =93-100
- A-     =90-92
- B+     =87-89
- B      =83-86
- B-     =80-82
- C+     =77-79
- C      =73-76
- C-     =70-72
- D+     =67-69
- D      =64-66
- F      =63 and below

I have received and read the Accelerated Piano Technique and Music Theory II course syllabus. I agree to meet all course requirements as listed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature (Please print legibly)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this signed document to the teacher.