



Tohoku International School

Secondary School Course Syllabus

Course Title: AP Music Theory	Teacher: Mr. Stephen Messano Email: smessano@tisweb.net																		
Grade Level: Grade 11-12	Time Frame: 37 weeks																		
<p>Course Description: In this course, students will study patterns of music and how they come together to form an aesthetic experience. Students will study the structure, design, and language of music. They will analyze an array of music literature, as well as create their own original compositions. Although the main focus will be on Western Music (1500-1900), other time periods and cultures will also be studied.</p> <p>Students in this course are strongly encouraged to take the College Board's AP Music Theory exam in May 2019.</p>																			
<p>Course Philosophy: Every culture in the world has music. It is a way of expressing our thoughts, feelings, beliefs, hopes, and dreams. Music can move us emotionally, bring us together in times of joy or sorrow, and enrich our lives. By studying music theory, students will understand <i>how</i> music is able to accomplish all of these things, in the same way a student of literature can better appreciate a novel by understanding the techniques employed to write one. The study of music theory gives us a window into this creative process and provides us with the sophisticated tools needed for creating our own music.</p>																			
<p>Course Objectives: By the end of this course, the student should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notate pitch and rhythm in accordance with standard notation practices. • Read melodies in treble, bass, and movable C clefs. • Write, sing, and play major and minor scales. • Recognize by ear and by sight various scales and intervals. • Apply the basic rules that govern music composition. • Harmonize a melody with appropriate chords using good voice leading. • Analyze the chords of a musical composition. • Transpose a composition from one key to another. • Express musical ideas by composing and arranging. • Understand and recognize basic musical forms. • Write simple rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic dictation. • Sight-sing simple melodies in major and minor keys. • Use a music software program such as <i>MuseScore</i> to compose and/or arrange music. 																			
<p>Units of Study:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">1. Notation</td> <td style="width: 50%;">10. Harmonic Progression and Harmonic Rhythm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes</td> <td>11. The Dominant Seventh Chord</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Intervals and Transposition</td> <td>12. The Leading-Tone Seventh Chords</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Chords</td> <td>13. Nondominant Seventh Chords</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Cadences and Nonharmonic Tones</td> <td>14. Modulation</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6. Melodic Organization</td> <td>15. Secondary Cominants and Leading Tone Chords</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Texture and Textural Reduction</td> <td>16. Two-Part (Binary) Form</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Voice Leading in Two Voices</td> <td>17. Three-Part (Ternary Form)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Voice Leading in Four Voices</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		1. Notation	10. Harmonic Progression and Harmonic Rhythm	2. Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes	11. The Dominant Seventh Chord	3. Intervals and Transposition	12. The Leading-Tone Seventh Chords	4. Chords	13. Nondominant Seventh Chords	5. Cadences and Nonharmonic Tones	14. Modulation	6. Melodic Organization	15. Secondary Cominants and Leading Tone Chords	7. Texture and Textural Reduction	16. Two-Part (Binary) Form	8. Voice Leading in Two Voices	17. Three-Part (Ternary Form)	9. Voice Leading in Four Voices	
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AP Music Theory (cont'd)

Dictation and Sight-Singing (year-long study)

Additional Topics (Pre-AP Exam)

- Rondo form
- Sonata-Allegro form
- Ornamentation
- Ostinati (melodic and rhythmic)
- Hemiola
- Rounds and canons
- Practice AP exam questions

Additional Topics (Post-AP Exam)

- Fugues
- Counterpoint in stage works (Gilbert & Sullivan operettas, Broadway shows, etc.)
- Composition using non-Western scales (Japanese *insempo*, Turkish *mode segah*, etc.)

Assessments:

- Learning Skills.....10%
- Classroom Participation.....10%
- Homework Assignments.....30%
- Quizzes (Analysis, Dictation, Sight-Singing).....20%
- Special Projects (Composing, Arranging, etc.).....15%
- Final Exam.....15%

Course Specific Materials Required

- **MAIN RESOURCES**

- Benward and Saker. *Music in Theory and Practice, Volume 1.*
- Saker. *Workbook to Accompany Music in Theory and Practice, Volume 1.*
- Berkowitz, Frontrier, and Kraft. *A New Approach to Sight Singing.*

- **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- Aldwell and Schachter. *Harmony and Voice Leading.*
- Berle. *Theory & Harmony for the Contemporary Musician.*
- Pilhofer and Day. *Music Theory for Dummies.*
- Miller. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Music Composition.*
- Ottman. *Music for Sight Singing.*
- Riemenschneider. *371 Harmonized Chorales and 69 Chorale Melodies with figured bass.*

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