

AP Music Theory

On-Line for 2009-2010 School Year

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Required Texts:

1. Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2005. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. New York: W. W. Norton. 0-393-97652-1 • cloth
2. Clendinning, Jane Piper, and Elizabeth West Marvin. 2005. Workbook for *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. New York: W. W. Norton. 0-393-97653-X • paper
3. Anthology for *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*. 0-393-92576-5 • paper
4. Crowell, Benjamin. *Eyes and Ears: An Anthology of Melodies for Sight-Singing*. This is a downloadable text and is free.

Books may be ordered new or used from [Amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), [aLibris](http://www.alibris.com), or [AbeBooks](http://www.abebooks.com). The workbook must be ordered new. Make sure you check your newly purchased books for completeness immediately when they arrive; otherwise you run the risk of falling hopelessly behind.

Software requirements:

1. *MacGamut6 for Mac and Windows*. This software program must be purchased online from <http://www.macgamut.com>.
2. iTunes (free download at <http://www.apple.com/itunes/download/>)
3. Notation Software
 - Sibelius Student, available for purchase online at <http://www.sibelius.com/products/index.html>
This is an edition with some limitations.
 - OR
 - Sibelius 5 (educational edition), available for purchase online at <http://www.sibelius.com/products/index.html>
You will need a certification that you are a bona fide student to purchase this edition at the student price.

You can compare the similarities and differences between these two editions at http://www.sibelius.com/products/sibelius_student/features.html.

4. Adobe reader (Windows or Mac) or Preview (Mac). The most recent version of Adobe reader can be downloaded from <http://www.adobe.com>.
5. Scanner and scanning software that facilitates collating multiple pages into a single file as a .pdf file.

Technical requirements:

1. High speed internet. Phone lines or satellite will not accommodate the musical files and graphics used in this class.
2. Operating systems:
 1. Windows: Vista or XP (SP2)
 2. Macintosh: OS X (10.4.11 or 10.5.6 and higher [as released])

3. All students should have up-to-date antivirus software on their machines (even mac users). Responsible computing will prevent infecting each other's computers with the latest malware!
4. Up-to-date web browser: Internet Explorer 7 or Firefox 3 (Windows); Safari or Firefox 3 (Mac).
5. Skype: This is a free download from <http://www.skype.com>.

Other Resources Available to Students:

- <http://www2.wwnorton.com/college/music/musictheory/premium/>
This website provides a review center for the class material. Students also can access interactive scores and audio, flash cards, and "Web Facts"—enrichment to the textbook topics.
- http://www.arsmusicaonline.com/APMusicTheory/PAHomeschoolers/Home_PAHS.html
This is the gateway for the course website. The site is arranged in a topical format and the website provides a wealth of listening materials, online scale and chord reviews, as well as an online dictionary of musical terms.
- <http://www.arsmusicaonline.com/Resources/APManuscriptPaper.html>
This site provides a variety of staff paper for student use.
- <http://www.metronomeonline.com>
This site provides an online metronome for students who do not own a metronome.

Who Should Apply: This course is for 11th and 12th grade secondary school students who are passionate about music, who currently participate in formal music instruction such as choir, band, orchestra and/or private music lessons, and who may wish to major or minor in music on the college or university level. The class is equivalent to the two courses that comprise the first year of college level music theory: written theoretical skills and aural skills. 10th graders who are interested in taking the class will be considered on an individual basis.

Prerequisites:

1. Piano or keyboard skills equivalent to a second year of piano study.
2. Successful completion of the qualifying exam.

Interested students should go to:

<http://www.arsmusicaonline.com/APMusicTheory.html>

Fill out the application form online and take the placement exam. Both can be submitted online. The exam covers the basic rudiments of music theory including 1) pitch names, 2) the grand staff (treble and bass clefs), 3) all major and minor scales, 4) pentatonic, whole tone and octatonic scales, 5) intervals and chords (major, minor, diminished and augmented), 6) rhythm and time signatures. The qualifying exam has both written and aural sections. Prospective students who do not have a score of 80% or higher will have a chance to study the material 1) independently, 2) with their private instrumental teachers, or 3) through my *Rudiments of Music Theory Class*. Students may retake the qualifying exam again during the 3rd week of July.

Course Fee:

- Early Registration Special: Register by July 1, 2009: \$625.00. Students who must re-take the qualifying exam qualify for the early-bird special as long as they submit their exam on or before July 20, 2009.
- Registrations after July 1, 2009: \$650.00

Registrations will be accepted until the class begins.

Course Description: The AP Music Theory course is equivalent to the first year of college/university/conservatory level music theory. It covers the material taught in two separate courses at the college level: first and second semester written skills and first and second semester aural skills. Thus it is the equivalent of 5 credit hours.

The scope of the course includes elements of music such as notation, ear training, sight singing, rhythm, keyboard harmony, dictation, and composition within the historical framework of the “common practice period” (the 18th through the 20th centuries). Normally the class addresses written skills on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and aural skills on Tuesday and Thursday.

The short-term goal is preparation for the AP Music Theory exam. The long-term goal is to develop the ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and process of music that are heard or presented in a score. The class uses listening, keyboard, and written exercises to foster fluency in fundamental aural, analytical, and compositional skills. Building on this foundation, the course progresses to include more creative tasks such as the harmonization of a melody by selecting appropriate chords, composing a musical bass line to provide two-voice counterpoint and the realization of figured-bass exercises.

The AP Music Theory exam places strong emphasis on listening skills. Approximately half of the questions on the exam address the ability to recognize by ear (that is, by listening) melodic and rhythmic patterns, harmonic functions, small forms, and compositional techniques. Most of the musical examples are taken from standard repertoire as well as from contemporary jazz, vernacular music or music beyond the Western European tradition. The examination assumes fluency in reading musical notation and a strong grounding in music fundamentals.

During the final weeks of the course, students have the opportunity to take practice AP Music Theory exams from past years.

Time Commitment: Since this course covers the material of two college level classes, students can expect to spend from 10-15 hours weekly. Mastering any musical discipline is like “painting a moving train;” the music doesn’t stand still! The course provides the structure to send the student in the correct to learn the material. But mastery comes with individual student effort. Five of the estimated 15 hours is class time. The remainder of the time is however long it takes to complete assignments or projects.

Instructor Qualifications: While I have taught first and second year music theory on the university level (as well as other music theory classes), this will be my 3rd year teaching AP Music Theory online. Over the summer I will be converting the course materials to a course management system that will allow more opportunities for discussion, sharing of musical files, and group projects.

I have a B.A. in music from St. Joseph College (now part of Loyola-Marymount in Los Angeles), a Masters degree in piano from the University of Southern California, a second Masters degree in music theory from the University of Michigan, and a doctorate in organ performance from the University of Michigan. In addition to teaching this class, I teach piano, organ and theory and coach graduate students who are in need of extra work to pass their theory prelims.