



Somerset High School Music Foundations 1



2011-2012 Course Syllabus



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Music Foundations 1

Overview

Music Foundations 1 meets three times in a cycle and is a highly demanding elective open to the serious music students in grades 9 - 12 interested in pursuing a career in music. This class will introduce the basic studies of music theory, arranging, composition and ear training. This course is designed to begin preparing students with experience in performing music, instrumentally or vocally, for a career in the music industry. Students are assessed daily, on quarterly project/compositions and during weekly tests on their ability to demonstrate learned skills in musical theory, ear training, arranging, composition, historical styles and musical performance. Successful completion of this course will result in better-developed performance skills on a student's principal instrument, provide a student the skills needed to begin composing their own music and help the career driven student musician get on track to gaining acceptance to a highly regarded under-graduate music program!

Instructional Activities

1. Assigned outlines, worksheets and readings
2. Viewing and evaluating of musical scores
3. Listening and evaluating audio media
4. Student research projects, presentations and compositions
5. Music computer software reinforcement of curriculum
6. Use of the internet for research
7. Frequent lecture reinforcing handouts
8. Class discussions
9. Evaluations of audio recordings by students
10. Evaluations of music performances by students
11. Written / Aural Quizzes & Tests

Instructional Materials and Resources

1. Various handouts and outlines specifically designed for this course
2. Use of the Internet for research purposes (web sites used can be located on the Music Links (Music Theory Sites) Page located at <http://www.somersetmusic.org>)
3. Student or school-owned melodic, musical instruments and supplies
4. **Berklee Music Theory Book 1** by Paul Schmeling
5. **Thirty Days to Music Theory** by Ellen Wilmerth
6. **The Complete Idiot's Guide to Music Theory** by Michael Miller
7. **Finale: An Easy Guide to Music Notation** by Thomas E. Rudolph & Vincent A. Leonard, Jr.
8. **Finale 2009** (Music Notation Software)
9. **Alfred's Essentials of Music Theory** (Music Theory Software)
10. **Master Theory Books 1, 2, 3, 4, (5, 6)** by Charles S. Peters and Paul Yoder
11. **Tonal Harmony Workbook and Text** by Stefan Kostka and Dorothy Payne

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Grading Requirements

Grading is scored quarterly as follows:

- **30% Tests & Projects:** Students will have a test at the end of every chapter in the course. Preparation for these tests will be in the form of outlines. Many small (week to complete) and larger (two or more weeks to complete) projects will be assigned throughout the year.
- **10% Quizzes:** Quizzes (both announced and unannounced) will be administered to touch upon weekly lessons.
- **20% Term Projects:** One major project per quarter will be assigned focusing on the many musical elements touched upon during the term.
- **30% Class/Homework:** In class assignments are assigned on a daily basis. Many computer assignments will be administered as well in order to assist in each chapter. Out of class review and summation assignments are administered throughout a chapter of study.
- **10% Participation and Cooperation**

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Instructional Objectives

The successful student will have learned:

I. Music Theory

- Music Reading and Performing
- Treble and Bass Clef
- Note Reading
- Grand Staff
- Ledger Lines
- Basic Rhythmic Values (whole to sixteenth)
- Triplets and Syncopation
- Dotted Rhythms
- Duple and Triple Time Signatures
- Meter Recognition
- Rhythmic Notation
- Dynamic Markings
- Tempo Markings
- Musical Symbols
- Circle of 5ths
- Sharps and Flats
- Key Signatures (Major)
- Major and Dominant 7th Chords
- Basic Chord Progression (I-IV-V7)
- Chord Inversions
- Major Scales
- Natural, Harmonic & Melodic Scales
- Scale Construction (Formulaic, Major Association & Relative Association)
- Diatonic Modes
- Diatonic and Chromatic Intervals

II. Ear Training

- Identification of Intervals and Scales
- Identification of Chords
- Identification of Rhythm
- Identification of Pitch and Melody
- Identification of Harmony and Form
- Identification of Ensemble Types
- Identification of Styles
- Identification of Dynamic Contrast
- Identification of Articulations
- Identification of Tempo Changes

III. Arranging

- Stylistic Elements and Characteristics used in Arranging
- Copying arrangements into Finale

IV. Composition

- Pitch Shapes
- Chords and Harmony
- Scales
- Melody
- Form
- Rhythm

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Course Materials

Pencil

A pencil (NOT PEN) is required for each class in order to take proper notes and complete all assignments in and out of class. Please come to class prepared with a pencil, as I will not supply you with one and classmates may not have an extra pencil for you to use. Failure to come to class without a pencil will result in the loss of participation credit towards your grade.

3-Hole Binder (1 to 1 ½ inch)

All class papers, notes, and materials must be held in a 3-hole binder. Please have this binder dedicated to this class only, as you will most likely fill the binder by the end with class materials. I may also require keeping your binders overnight, which would conflict with other classes if you use the binder for multiple subjects. Failure to come to class without your binder will result in the loss of participation credit towards your grade.

1-Subject Notebook (with 3 holes)

All notes from class lectures should be taken in one notebook dedicated only to this class. This notebook should be kept in your class binder. I may require keeping this notebook overnight, so using it for multiple subjects could create a conflict. Coming to class without your notebook will result in the loss of participation credit towards your grade.

Composition / Staff Notebook

Many assignments throughout the year will require you to write musical notation on music composition or staff paper. Notebooks are available for purchase that contain music composition / staff paper rather than standard wide or college ruled composition paper. You are required to bring your music composition / staff notebook to class every day. Failure to bring your music composition / staff notebook to class will result in the loss of participation credit towards your grade. Music composition / staff notebooks can be purchased for a nominal price at Symphony Music Shop (Dartmouth), Ray Mullin Music (Swansea), Rick's Music World (Raynham), Doug's Music (Rehoboth) and Friends Music (Westport).

Agenda Book

All homework, project, quiz, and test dates should be recorded in your agenda to prevent and confusion. Please get in the habit of using your agenda for these purposes in class. Failure to come to class with your agenda book will result in the loss of participation credit towards your grade.

