

Music Theory

MUSH 031 055

Credits: 0.5 units / 5 hours

Course Description

Through the study of the elements of music theory in this course students will increase their understanding and enjoyment of music. They will study musical notation, major and minor scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, rhythm, and fundamental terminology. Access to a keyboard or musical instrument is NOT required, although it will be helpful. Students who have studied band, orchestra, or voice can succeed in this course, but the course is best suited for those who have studied piano, keyboard or organ.

Graded Assessments: 7 Projects; 2 Proctored Progress Tests

Course Objectives

There are specific objectives listed individually in each lesson. The ultimate goal is that, by the end of the course, you will know and use these facts, concepts, principles, theories, and models to gain a better grasp on the theory and practice of music notation. It is our hope that each student will:

1. Become familiar with the history and practice of music notation.
2. Understand how to read music and to notate it correctly.
3. Be comfortable with the grammar of music.
4. Know how to play all the scales, intervals, triads, and rhythmic figures.

Course Outline

Unit 1: Notation

Lesson 1 - How Our System Began; Clef Signs; The Staff

Lesson 2 - Half Steps and Whole Steps—The Keyboard

Lesson 3 - Uses of Accidentals, Enharmonic Equivalents and Transposition

Project 1

Unit 2: Scales and Key Signatures

Lesson 4 - Major Scales

Lesson 5 - Key Signatures

Lesson 6 - Minor Scales

Lesson 7 - Scale Review

Project 2

Unit 3: Intervals

Lesson 8 - Basic Intervals

Project 3

Unit 4: Triads

Lesson 9 - Structure of Triads

Lesson 10 - Quality of Triads in a Key

Project 4

Progress Test 1

Unit 5: Rhythm

Lesson 11 - Definitions

Lesson 12 - Notes and Rests

Lesson 13 - Meter

Lesson 14 - Characteristic Rhythmic Notation

Project 5

Unit 6: Music Terminology

Lesson 15 - Terminology

Project 6

Unit 7: Music History

Lesson 16 - The History of Music

Project 7

Progress Test 2

Required Textbook and Materials
(available through Follett virtual bookstore at <http://highschool.nebraska.bkstr.com>)

No required textbook