

Music Theory (Music)

Elective – Semester – 11-12

Prerequisites: None

Course Description

Music Theory offers a continuation of the blessings the Lord has given us through music, and seeks to prepare students for a lifetime of meaningful praise and worship. The class will be tailored to meet the needs of students who have varying levels of musical experience and ability. Fundamentals of note reading, rhythm, melody, and harmony are discussed. The course rapidly moves into advanced aspects of composition, transposition, arranging, and publishing music. Hands on application of music technology is included in the curriculum as well. This class will be an excellent preparation for those students who are considering a career in music and for those who seek to learn more about music composition.

Course Goals

The Christian teacher will:

1. Give the students a sound understanding of the Lord's gift of music.
2. Equip students with a basic set of skills necessary to read, understand, perform, arrange, and publish music.
3. Foster a Christian understanding in the student that includes a lifetime of meaningful worship with leadership in our worship services.

Course Objectives

The successful student will be able to:

1. Create, decode, and perform rhythm patterns ranging from whole notes to sixteenth notes.
2. Understand and utilize basic directing skills.
3. Read and write notes and ledger lines in Treble, Bass, and other clefs.
4. Understand, create and identify key signatures, chords, inversions, and perform harmonic analysis.
5. Translate notes and rhythms to the keyboard.
6. Read, understand and perform on the keyboard basic chords including major, minor, augmented, diminished, sixths, major and minor sevenths, suspensions, and other chords.
7. Draw upon their comprehensive knowledge of music structure to create original four-part compositions.
8. Understand and employ basic transposition skills.
9. Utilize various software programs to write, arrange, and publish music involving voice, piano, and other instruments including those requiring transposition.
10. Understand and use microphones, amplifiers, sound mixers, and equalizers.
11. Gain an understanding of Christian Worship and the role it plays in our Lutheran worship services.
12. Be able to differentiate between spiritually healthy and unhealthy forms of music.

Course Outline

- 1) Introduction to music as a gift of God
- 2) Rhythm
 - a) Decoding rhythm
 - b) Performing rhythm
- 3) Directing
 - a) Basic patterns
 - b) Directing a hymn
- 4) Basic note recognition
 - a) Treble clef
 - b) Bass Clef
 - c) Leger lines
- 5) Key signatures
 - a) Major sharps and flats
 - b) Minor keys
 - c) Modes

- 6) The piano keyboard
 - a) Key identification
 - b) Whole and half steps
 - c) Major scale construction
- 7) Basic harmonic structure
 - a) Triads
 - b) Inversion
 - c) Open chords
 - d) "Comping" chords on the piano.
- 8) Writing music in four parts
 - a) Writing from a figured bass
 - b) Harmonizing a written melody
 - c) Voice leading
- 9) Composing on Finale Note Pad
- 10) Creating music using Garage Band
- 11) Using the Yamaha AW 16G to digitally record multiple performance tracks
- 12) Final class project – writing, harmonizing, publishing, arranging, digitally recording an original composition.

Instructional Strategies

1. Class meets five days of the week for one semester.
2. Alfreds *Essentials of Music Theory* will be used as the textbook.
3. Finale NotePad will be used on the school computer network for writing and arranging music.
4. Garage Band will be used on the Macintosh Computers in the Choir Room.
5. The Yamaha AW 16G will be used in the Choir Room Recording Studio for recording original compositions

Grading Methods

Students will be graded on their ability to understand, write, and perform the various musical skills required in the curriculum.

Worksheets and quizzes will be part of the daily work.

Daily preparation of the *Essentials of Music Theory* assignments will be graded.

The quality of original compositions will be assessed and graded.

- Grading Scale
 - A+ 100-99
 - A 98-95
 - A- 94-93
 - B+ 92-91
 - B 90-87
 - B- 86-85
 - C+ 84-83
 - C 82-79
 - C- 78-77
 - D+ 76-75
 - D 74-72
 - D- 71-70
 - F 69-0

Student Materials

Essentials of Music Theory

A pencil

Classroom Procedures

1. Students who are not in the room when the period begins are considered tardy and will be marked as such.

Additional Information

More information about Music Department policies and procedures can be found in the Music Department Handbook. Each family with a student involved in music at Luther High School is given a copy of the Handbook at the start of the school year.