

E^THEORY LIVE

Interactive Music Theory Classroom

Course Syllabus I

Lesson 1

Understand the following concepts:

- Tonal and non-tonal music
- Major and minor modes
- Origins and purpose of musical notation
- Pitch and pitch class
- Read, notate, sing, and play pitches notated in bass and treble clefs
- Chromatic alterations and enharmonic spelling
- Distinguish between whole and half steps

Sing and play on a keyboard:

- Pitches
- Half and whole steps
- Short melodic patterns

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Identify tonal and non-tonal music
- Identify major and minor modes
- Identify the relative register of notes
- Identify pitches given a starting note
- Identify intervals in a series as steps or leaps
- Notate short melodic fragments

Lesson 2

Identify and write basic notation, including:

- Note head size and placement
- Stems, flags, beams
- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenth and dotted notes and rests
- Chromatic alteration
- Rhythmic Durations and relationships
- Grouping of beats in music, including:
- Accents
- Strong and weak beats
- Measure, measure line
- Meter
- Tempo
- Tempo indications
- Tempo modifiers
- Space in music
- Density in music
- Intervals (generic, specific, melodic, harmonic, compound)
- Consonance and dissonance

- Diatonic collections
- Half step/Whole step
- Major scale
- Scale degree numbers and names
- Sing and play on a keyboard
- Pulse and rhythms in simple and compound meter
- Generic intervals
- Half and whole steps
- Major scales beginning on various scale degrees
- Short melodic patterns in major tonality

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Identify steps, thirds or larger intervals
- Identify consonant and dissonant intervals
- Identify the relative register of intervals
- Identify pitches given a starting note
- Identify intervals in a series as steps or leaps



- Pitch collections
- Take dictation of short melodic fragments

Lesson 3

Understand the following concepts:

- Chromatic scale
- Intervallic inversions
- Specific vs. generic intervals
- Compound intervals
- Major pitch collections
- Transpositions
- Tetrachord
- Tetrachordal fingerings
- Key signatures
- Circle of fifths
- Chromatic vs. diatonic half step

- Enharmonicism
- Role of context in consonance/dissonance

Sing and/or play on a keyboard:

- Two note patterns
- Major scales
- Enharmonic equivalents
- Matching pitches

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Consonance vs. dissonance

Demonstrate rhythmic skills:

- Play, tap and speak rhythms

Lesson 4

Understand the following concepts:

- Identification and notation of specific intervals
- Interval quality
- Consonant and dissonant intervals
- Perfect and imperfect intervals
- Natural, harmonic and melodic minor scales
- Relative and parallel key relationships

- Melodic patterns in minor tonality
- Melodic and harmonic intervals
- Combining playing and singing
- Play, tap and say dotted rhythms
- Double and halve rhythms

Sing and play on a keyboard:

- Minor scales beginning on various scale degrees

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Identify intervals, minor and major modes
- Dictation of melodic fragments in minor tonality
- Dictation of rhythmic patterns

Lesson 5

Understand the following concepts:

- Inversion of specific intervals
- Principles of pulse, meter, and rhythm
- Rhythmic, harmonic, dynamic and registral accents
- Duple, triple, quadruple meter
- Simple meter signatures
- Upbeat (anacrusis)

- Determine key, sing melodies and sing melodies while conducting
- Alternate singing and playing melody fragments
- Play one voice while singing another
- Tap accompanimental rhythmic patterns while singing melody

Demonstrate aural skills:



- Conducting patterns in simple meters

Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:

- Conduct in simple meter while saying rhythmic patterns
- Sing scale degree patterns

- Identify and label intervals
- Identify and correct melodic and rhythmic fragments
- Rhythmic dictation in simple meter
- Melodic dictation in simple meter

Lesson 6

Understand the following concepts:

- Identifying meter by recurring patterns and accents
- Duple, triple, and quadruple
- Common time and cut time
- Steps of sight singing
- Steps of dictation or transcription
- Components and characteristics of melody

- Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:
- Transpose (play) short melodic fragments
- Sing and play intervals above a bass line
- Sing one voice and play the other

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Sight sing simple meter rhythms and melodies in major and minor
- Modes
- Listen to, memorize and notate a melody

Lesson 7

Understand the following concepts:

- Distinguishing simple and compound meters
- Determining meter from notation
- Determining meter from playing
- Correct beaming in simple and compound meter
- Transforming major, minor and perfect intervals using chromatic alterations
- Augmented and diminished intervals
- Enharmonic equivalents

Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:

- Read, articulate and conduct rhythms

- Say and clap two-part rhythmic exercises
- Play melodies on a keyboard with each hand
- Sing one voice while listening to the other voice
- Demonstrate aural skills:
- Listen and identify beat division and meter
- Listen and identify rhythmic patterns
- Listen and identify rhythmic errors
- Listen and identify all intervals, major and minor triads

Lesson 8

Understand the following concepts:

- Analyzing rhythmic patterns
- Determining meter from notated rhythms
- Composing rhythmic patterns and phrases
- Melodic contour

- Parallel motion
- Clausula vera
- Composing melodies

Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:

- Articulating two-part rhythmic patterns
- Singing scale degree patterns above a tonic



- Melodic climax
- Cadence
- Conjunct and disjunct motion
- Melodic (linear) and harmonic (vertical) intervals
- Writing first-species counterpoint
- Cantus firmus
- Similar motion
- Contrary motion
- Play intervals above a bass line
- Play two-part examples
- Play one voice and sing another voice

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Take melodic and rhythmic dictation
- Identify melodic patterns
- Take dictation of two voice counterpoint

Lesson 9

Understand the following concepts:

- Writing first species counterpoint against a cantus firmus
- Use of diminution in counterpoint
- Second species counterpoint
- Use of consonance in second species counterpoint
- converting 1:1 to 2:1 counterpoint
- Steps for advanced sightsinging
- Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:
- Sing counterpoint against a cantus firmus

- Sing and conduct melodies with rhythms
- Sing with solfege and with scale degree numbers
- Play two-voice counterpoint; sing one voice while playing the other
- Sing melodic fragments

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Identify melodic fragments
- Add missing voices of two-voice counterpoint
- Take dictation of two-voice counterpoint

Lesson 10

Understand the following concepts:

- Oblique motion in second species counterpoint
- Use of consonance and dissonance in second species counterpoint
- Consonant and dissonant passing tones
- Rules for writing second species counterpoint

- Dynamics
- Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:
- Play and sing second species counterpoint
- Sight-sing and conduct in major and minor modes

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Dictation of 1:1 and 2:1 counterpoint

Lesson 11

Understand the following concepts:

- Slurs, ties and phrase markings
- Triplets and duplets
- Syncopation
- Hemiola

- Say rhythmic patterns in asymmetrical meters
- Sing triads from given scale degrees
- Sing melodies that outline tonic and dominant triads



- Asymmetrical meters
- Analyze and write Major, minor, diminished and Augmented triads
- Transforming triads
- Identify triad function within a key by using Roman numerals
- Sing, play on a keyboard, and conduct:
- Say complex rhythmic patterns with ties while conducting
- Clap two-part rhythmic patterns
- Sing melodies with complex rhythms
- Sing and conduct melodies that outline triads
- Play closed position triads on the keyboard
- Play two-part melodies
- Play triads in major keys identified by Roman numerals
- Demonstrate aural skills:
- Distinguish between four triad types
- Identify triad quality and isolate triad members

Lesson 12

Understand the following concepts:

- Building and identifying triads
- Voicing and spacing of triads
- Doubling within triads
- Inversions (root, 1st and 2nd inversions)
- Figured bass symbols
- Analyzing figured bass

Sing, play on a keyboard and conduct:

- Sing and play all triad types
- Play four-voice parts in keyboard style

- Playing and transposing triad patterns
- Determine and play triad possibilities from the given two notes
- Realize figured bass on the keyboard
- Sing advanced melodic patterns

Demonstrate aural skills:

- Identify triad types
- Identify bass, soprano voices and triad quality

Lesson 13

Demonstrate the following skills:

- Spell diatonic triads in the minor mode
- Use figured bass to show chromaticism above a bass voice
- Recognize "new" ways in which melodies can be embellished

Lesson 14

Demonstrate the following skills:

- Recognize and spell common types of seventh chords
- Use appropriate figured bass symbols for seventh chords

