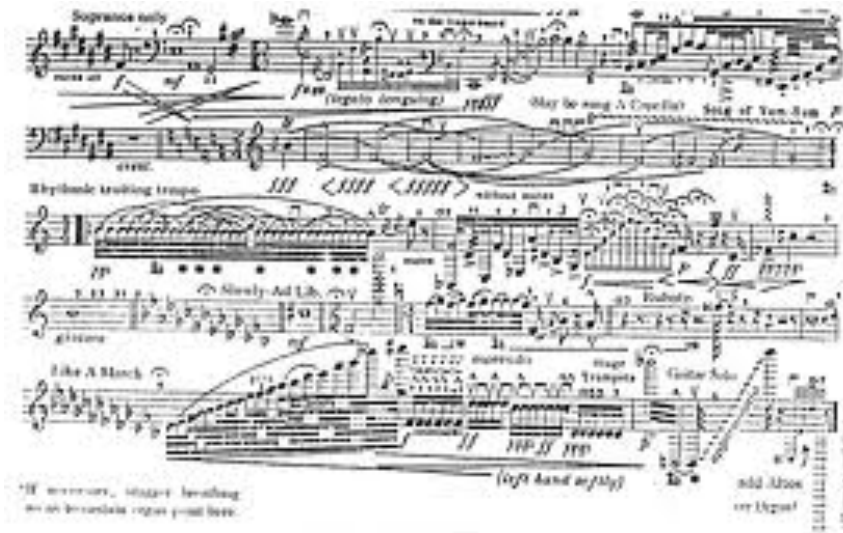


# SAN DIEGO SCHOOL OF CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS



## A.P. MUSIC THEORY SYLLABUS 2017-2018

ANDREW BEARDEN,  
INSTRUCTOR

**CONGRATULATIONS** on your decision to take AP Music Theory. This course will be equally rewarding and challenging as you discover the science behind music, unlocking the key to understanding and creating great musical works.

During the course of the year if you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to contact me:

E-mail – [abearden@sandi.net](mailto:abearden@sandi.net)

### ***COURSE OVERVIEW***

This course will be taught at a rapid pace at the collegiate level and will most likely cover topics taught in most first and second semester college theory courses.

#### **Primary Texts**

Benward, Bruce and Marilyn Staker. 2009. *Music in Theory and Practice, Volume 1*, 8<sup>th</sup> ed. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill.

Ottoman, Robert. 2001. *Music for Sight Singing*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall.

#### **Other Resources**

*Finale (for Mac and PC)*. MakeMusic, Inc.

[Musictheory.net](http://Musictheory.net)

The 30 Greatest Orchestral Masterpieces (lecture series)

### ***COURSE OBJECTIVES***

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Notate pitch and rhythm in accordance with standard notational practices
- Define basic musical terms and theoretical concepts
- Read melodies in treble, bass and movable C clefs
- Write, sing and play major scales and all three forms of minor scales
- Recognize by ear and by sight all intervals within an octave
- Use the basic rules that govern music composition
- Harmonize a melody with appropriate chords using good voice leading
- Analyze the chords of a musical composition by number and letter name
- Transpose a composition for one key to another
- Express musical ideas by composing and arranging
- Understand and recognize basic musical forms: ternary, binary, rondo, etc.
- Write simple rhythmic, melodic and harmonic dictation

### ***EXPECTATIONS OF STUDENTS:***

- Students will participate in all classroom discussions and activities
- Students will complete all assigned exercises and readings

- Students will keep and maintain a Music Theory notebook, which will include class notes, handouts and assignments
- Students will study the released AP Exams and take practice tests to prepare for the exam.

## ***COURSE PLANNER***

### **WEEK 1**

**Introductions/Ice Breaker  
Course Overview  
Proficiency Test: Written  
Proficiency Test: Aural**

### **WEEK 2 BENWARD CH. 1,2, 3**

**Share Proficiency Test Results, Review Notation Basics  
Review Scales, Tonality, Key, Modes  
Review Intervals and Transposition**

### **WEEK 3 BENWARD CH. 4**

**Chords, Inversions  
Intro to Roman Numeral Analysis, AURAL SKILLS**

### **WEEK 4 BENWARD CH. 5, 6**

**Cadences, Non-Harmonic Tones  
Melodic Organization  
AURAL SKILLS**

### **WEEK 5 BENWARD CH 7**

**Texture/Textural Reduction  
Texture Cont'd, AURAL SKILLS  
TEST – CH 1-7 & Aural Skills**

### **WEEK 6 BENWARD CH 8**

**Species Counterpoint  
Species Counterpoint Cont'd**

### **WEEK 7 BENWARD CH 9**

**Voice Leading in Four-Part Chorale Writing, AURAL SKILLS  
Voice Leading in Four-Part Chorale Writing, AURAL SKILLS  
Voice Leading in Four-Part Chorale Writing, AURAL SKILLS**

### **WEEK 8 BENWARD CH 10, 11**

**Harmonic Progression  
The Dominant Seventh Chord**

### **WEEK 9 BENWARD CH 12, 13**

**Leading-Tone 7<sup>th</sup> Chords  
AURAL SKILLS  
Nondominant Seventh Chords**

### **WEEK 10 BENWARD CH 14**

**Secondary Dominants and Leading-Tone Chords**  
**Secondary Dominants Cont'd, AURAL SKILLS**  
**REVIEW CH 8-14, AURAL SKILLS**

**WEEK 11**  
**TEST – CH 8-14**  
**AURAL SKILLS**

**THANKSGIVING BREAK**

**WEEK 12 BENWARD CH 15**  
**Dust off the cobwebs (Review concepts from before break)**  
**Modulation**  
**Modulation Cont'd & AURAL SKILLS**

**WEEK 13 BENWARD CH 16, 17**  
**Binary Form**  
**Ternary Form**

**WEEK 14**  
**Catch-up Time (AURAL SKILLS if time)**  
**Catch-up Time (AURAL SKILLS if time)**  
**Catch-up Time (AURAL SKILLS if time)**

**WEEK 15**  
**Catch-up Time (AURAL SKILLS if time)**  
**MIDTERM – CH 1-17 & AURAL SKILLS**

**WINTER BREAK**

**WEEK 16**  
**Dust off the cobwebs (Review Concepts from before break)**  
**Introduce Analysis Project, AURAL SKILLS**  
**Work on Analysis Project**

**WEEK 17**  
**Work on Analysis Project**  
**Work on Analysis Project**

**WEEK 18**  
**Present Analysis Project**  
**Present Analysis Project Cont'd**

**END OF 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMESTER (2<sup>ND</sup> SEMESTER COURSE PLANNER WILL BE DISTRUBUTED)**

**GRADING**

<b>TEXTBOOK MATERIAL:</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>AURAL SKILLS MATERIAL:</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>COMPOSITION/WRITING ASSIGNMENTS:</b>	<b>25%</b>
<b>TESTS/QUIZZES:</b>	<b>25%</b>

## **TEXTBOOK MATERIAL**

Textbook materials are presented through a lecture/demonstration format. Students are expected to take notes and participate during lectures, having become familiar with the material prior to the lecture. Homework assignments are included at the end of each lesson and are to be completed after the lecture and turned in at the next class meeting.

## **AURAL SKILLS MATERIAL**

This is completed as classwork, but I will be directing students to online resources where they can practice their ear training and aural/sight singing skills at home. Weekly quizzes related to aural skills will be administered regularly and calculated into this portion of the grading scale. Most students who fail the AP Exam do so because of the aural skills portion of the exam, so regardless of major all students must become proficient sight singers.

## **COMPOSITION/WRITING ASSIGNMENTS**

These assignments will involve students composing short pieces reflecting specific musical theory principles. They need to be completed using music notation software such as Finale or Sibelius. My preference is Finale, but students may use either program. MakeMusic offers a free download of Finale Notepad on their website.

Writing Assignments may include a concert review, a reaction to a YouTube clip, an in-depth theoretical analysis of a piece of music or a report on a famous composer. These assignments will be assigned and explained in full as the semester progresses.

## **TESTS/QUIZZES**

Quizzes will be administered weekly and tests will be administered at the end of each chapter of the text, accompanied by an aural skills test associated with the material in the text. There will be a cumulative midterm at the end of the first semester and a practice AP Exam administered before the actual AP Exam. The practice AP Exam will be graded as a test however the actual AP Exam is optional and is not associated in any way with the class grade.

## **LATE WORK POLICY**

Late work will be accepted up to one class session past the due date. After that, the assignment will be marked a '0' in the grade book and cannot be made up. It is the student's responsibility to find out what assignment is due and turn it in on a timely basis, regardless of whether or not the student attended class on a given day. Many assignments can be turned in via e-mail, and thus being absent does not excuse a student from turning in an assignment on the due date.

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE CONSULT THE OFFICIAL SCPA AP CLASS GUIDELINES FOR MORE GRADING INFORMATION**

## ***CLASSROOM GUIDELINES***

### ***HOURS***

Please schedule a time in advance to discuss information pertaining to this course during my office hours (7<sup>th</sup> PERIOD).

### ***CONDUCT***

The only conduct acceptable is that which reflects good taste, maturity and pride in our program and school. Physical violence (horseplay or fighting), profanity and vulgarity will not be tolerated at any time, in or out of the rehearsal room, including but not limited to the Practice Rooms, Theaters or any off-campus performance venue.

**BOTTOM LINE: REPECT YOURSELF, RESPECT OTHERS.**

### ***FOOD***

There will be absolutely no eating, drinking or gum-chewing allowed in Room 109 or any of its extending facilities. Bottled water is the only exception to this rule.