

The Bromfield School - Music Department

Music Theory - Syllabus

Course Description: Music Theory provides the tools for people to communicate with one another through the language of music. Students in the Music Theory and Composition class will learn about the structural and compositional elements of music. A thorough study of basic harmony and counterpoint covering scales, modes, major and minor keys, triads, four-part harmony, voice-leading, chord progressions, inversions, figured bass, form, analysis, and five species of counterpoint. Students will work with state-of-the-art music composition software called "Finale 2001". Students will be required to write compositions of varying lengths covering different musical forms. An emphasis will be placed on using available technology to create original student works.

Desired outcomes for each student include the following:

- Development of knowledge and appreciation of the performing arts.
- Development of aesthetic judgments and the ability to apply them to artistic works.
- Ability to use cultural resources of performing arts groups.
- Ability to produce and perform musical works.
- Acquire a knowledge of the materials, media, and history of music.
- Understand the diversity of cultural heritage.
- Help all participants to develop a positive feel of self-worth.
- Students involved in the Music Program are expected to:
 - a. respect others, property, the learning environment, and him/herself in language, action, and dress.
 - b. exhibit honesty, integrity, self-control, responsibility, trust, concern for the well-being of others and oneself, and a striving toward excellence.
 - c. demonstrate consistency and purpose in his/her focus upon personal growth through the privilege of public education.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. You will need some type of audio device that plays compact discs.
2. Textbook Requirements - issued from School:
 - Porter, Dr. Steven (1987). The Harmonization of the Chorale. New York:Excelsior Music Publishing Company
 - Evans, Jeffrey (1999). Exploring Theory with Practica Musica. Kirkland, Washington:Arts Nova Software
 - Ewer, Gary (1996). Easy Music Theory. Halifax, Nova Scotia: <http://www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca>
3. You will need a three-ring binder with blank staff paper in it for note taking and saving class handouts.
4. There will be one exercise assignment completed each week outside of class.
5. There will be two written tests per quarter.
6. If you take this course seriously and put in honest effort, it should be a very rewarding experience for you.

GRADING: (per quarter)

Notebook: 10 points
Assignments: 20 points
Tests: 40 points
Classroom Participation: 15 points
Effort: 15 points
TOTAL: 100 points