Course Title: AP Music Theory

Course #: 1784-1785

Course Description:
This college level Music Theory course is intended for experienced musicians with a serious interest in the subject. The rigorous curriculum will prepare students who intend to potentially pursue collegiate studies in the field, and/or who wish to obtain college credit through the related AP exam in the spring. Foundations for the course will center around western classical music notation structures and their practical application in practice and performance. Skills attained in the class will include techniques in score study, harmonic and melodic recognition and dictation, sight singing, and keyboard playing. Students will explore music compositions through analysis, performance practice, and creation. In order to keep up with the course expectations, it is necessary that students regularly have access to a piano (or budget time to work on one at school). Students are strongly encouraged to take the AP Exam in May.

UC/CSU Approval: “f” approved

Grade Level: *10, 11-12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 4-5 hours per week

Prerequisite: Students must know how to read music and have an understanding of basic fundamentals (harmony etc.). This could be from instrumental or vocal experience. They will demonstrate literacy through audition and interview with the instructor. Piano experience is highly recommended.
*Grade 10: Sophomores may enroll if maturity and advanced musical knowledge is demonstrated at audition/interview

Recommended Prerequisite Skills: Several years of intense piano or guitar instruction are highly recommended.

Course Grade Scale:
- Quizzes/Tests: 15%
- Written Assignments/Homework: 25%
- Projects: 30%
- Class Participation/Performance: 15%
- Final Exam: 15%
Major Assessments/Units/Topics:

(1st Semester)
UNIT 1 – Melodic and Rhythmic Structure
● Pitch notation, evolution of the staff(s), clefs, ledger lines, chromatic pitch, intervals, enharmonics, accidentals
● Introduction to melodic dictation/sightsinging in major keys with diatonic melodies
● Meter and rhythm, tempo beat, accent, syncopation, hemiola, dots, ties, rests, articulations
● Major scales, circle of fifths, key signatures, scales, accidentals
● Minor scales, relative keys, parallels

UNIT 2 – Harmonic Notation
● Numeric values and qualities of intervals, enharmonics
● Seventh chords, triad identification
● Chord inversions
● Figured bass
● Triad functions in major and minor keys

(2nd Semester)
UNIT 3 – Harmonic Function
● Functional tonal principles
● Cadences: authentic and perfect authentic, plagal, half and deceptive
● Embellishing/nonharmonic tones: pasting tone, neighboring tone, changing tone, anticipation, suspension, retardation, simultaneous embellishing tones, pedal point; use of nonharmonic tones
● Melodic principles in four-part writing / chord voicings: range tessitura, spacing, movement, doubling, resolution of tendency tones

UNIT 4 – Part Writing
● Principles of chord connection: contrary motion, oblique motion, similar motion, parallel motion
● Connecting root-root position triads: fifths relationships, triad relationships, seconds relationships and realization of figured bass
● Voicing triads in first inversion: frequency, spacing, doubling of first-inversion chords, connecting root position and first-inversion triads, successive first-inversion triad
● Part writing using non-chord tones: voicing suspensions and retardations, stylistic use of non-chord tones
● Review for exam