

Music Theory I - Outline

Week 1: Part 0 - A Crash Course in Splitting Time

- Introduction to the fundamentals of rhythm, including how to read and write rhythms
- Practice clapping rhythms by ear and using notation
- Using syllables to speak rhythms
- Writing your own rhythms
- Rhythm Games!

Week 2: Part 1 - Notes and Intervals

- Rhythm Games!
- Introduction to note names, intervals, the Major Scale, and the Chromatic Scale.
- Practice identifying notes and intervals by ear
- Playing notes on various instruments (At least Piano, Guitar, and your instrument, whatever it may be)
- Singing notes and intervals
- Writing a short melody in the key of C major
- Note and Interval Games!

Week 3: Part 2 - Reading and the Circle of 5ths

- Rhythm Games!
- Introduction to the musical staff, clefs, and how to read and write notes
- Practice identifying notes and intervals from written music
- Playing notes while reading sheet music (on your instrument)
- Playing a melody in C major
- Note, Interval and Reading Games!

Week 4: Part 2 - Reading and the Circle of 5ths (Continued)

- Rhythm Games!
- Review of notes, intervals, reading music and the Major Scale
- The Circle of 5ths
- Writing two short melodies in the keys of G major, and F major
- Identifying keys and using key signatures
- Intervals and their Inverses
- Repeats, D.C., D.S., Fine, Codas, etc.
- Reading Melodies (using Melodies PDF)
- Note, Interval and Reading Games!

Week 5: Part 3 - Chords, Scales, and Arpeggios

- Note, Interval and Reading Games!
- Introduction to Chords, including triads and 7th chords, as well as inversions and voicings of chords
- Reading Chord Symbols
- Chords in a Key
- Writing a chord progression in C Major using Triads
- Writing a chord progression in C Major using 7th Chords
- Reading Melodies (using Melodies PDF)
- Note, Interval and Reading Games!

Week 6: Part 3 - Chords, Scales, and Arpeggios (Continued)

- Note, Interval and Reading Games!
- Relative Major and Minor Scales
- Versions of the Minor Scale
- Writing a chord progression in A Minor using Triads (Natural Minor)
- Writing a chord progression in A Minor using Triads (Harmonic Minor)
- Writing a chord progression in A Minor using 7th Chords (Natural Minor)
- Writing a chord progression in A Minor using 7th Chords (Any version of Minor)
- Reading Melodies (using Melodies PDF)
- Chord Games!

Week 7: Part 3 - Chords, Scales, and Arpeggios (Continued)

- Rhythm Games!
- The Modes of the Major Scale
- Writing melodies using each of the 7 Modes of the Major Scale
- Other kinds of Scales
- Arpeggios
- Writing a chord progression and a melody that fits the chords
- Writing a melody and then finding chords that fit (harmonization)
- Where to go from here - performance, improvisation, songwriting, composition, etc.
- What we didn't cover - form, style, instrumentation and arrangement, lyrics, etc.