

SS1 Music – Week 1

Topic: Revision – Theory of Music

1. Basic Rudiments of Music (Revision)

Rudiments of music are the foundational elements upon which all music theory is built. These include:

The Staff (Stave): A set of five horizontal lines and four spaces, each representing a musical pitch.

Notes: Symbols used to represent sound duration (e.g., semibreve, minim, crotchet, quaver).

Clefs: Indicate the pitch of notes on the staff. The two most common clefs are:

Treble Clef (G Clef)

Bass Clef (F Clef)

Ledger Lines: Extra lines above or below the staff used for notes outside the staff range.

Accidentals: Signs that alter pitch:

Sharp (\sharp) raises a note by a semitone.

Flat (\flat) lowers a note by a semitone.

Natural (\natural) cancels a previous sharp or flat.

2. Musical Signs and Symbols

Musicians use various signs and symbols to indicate performance instructions.

Some include:

Dynamics: Indicate volume (e.g., p for piano/soft, f for forte/loud).

Articulations: Show how notes should be played (e.g., staccato, legato).

Repeat Signs: Indicate sections to be repeated.

Slurs and Ties: Connect notes in phrasing or pitch duration.

3. Rhythmic Roles and Time Signatures

Rhythm is the pattern of sounds and silences in music.

Time Signature is written at the beginning of a piece after the clef and key signature. It tells how many beats are in a measure and what kind of note gets one beat.

Common time signatures:

2/4: Simple duple

3/4: Simple triple

4/4: Common time

6/8: Compound duple

Rhythmic Values:

Note	Symbol	Duration
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Semibreve	○	4 beats
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Minim	○	2 beats
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Crotchet	●	1 beat
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Quaver	♪	½ beat
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Semiquaver	♪	¼ beat
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4. Key Signatures

A key signature indicates the key of a piece of music by showing which notes are sharp or flat throughout.

Table of Major Key Signatures (Sharps)

Key Sharps

G	F \sharp
D	F \sharp , C \sharp
A	F \sharp , C \sharp , G \sharp
E	F \sharp , C \sharp , G \sharp , D \sharp
B	F \sharp , C \sharp , G \sharp , D \sharp , A \sharp
F \sharp	F \sharp , C \sharp , G \sharp , D \sharp , A \sharp , E \sharp

Table of Major Key Signatures (Flats)

Key Flats

F	B \flat
B \flat	B \flat , E \flat
E \flat	B \flat , E \flat , A \flat
A \flat	B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat
D \flat	B \flat , E \flat , A \flat , D \flat , G \flat

5. Musical Scales (Major and Minor)

Diatonic Scales:

A diatonic scale consists of 7 notes with 5 whole steps and 2 half steps.

Major Scale (Tone-Tone-Semitone-Tone-Tone-Tone-Semitone)

C Major Scale: C D E F G A B C

Natural Minor Scale: A B C D E F G A

Harmonic Minor Scale: Raises the 7th note

A Harmonic Minor: A B C D E F G[#] A

Melodic Minor Scale: Raises 6th and 7th notes ascending; reverts to natural form descending

A Melodic Minor Ascending: A B C D E F# G# A

Descending: A G F E D C B A

6. Constructing Scales with or without Key Signatures

With Key Signature:

G Major (1 sharp): Write F# on the staff.

Without Key Signature (using accidentals):

G Major: Add F# as an accidental each

time F is written.

7. Musical Terms, Signs, Ornaments, and Abbreviations

Term	Meaning
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Allegro	Fast, lively
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Andante	Walking pace
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Crescendo	Gradually getting louder
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Diminuendo	Gradually getting softer
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Staccato	Short, detached notes
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Legato	Smooth, connected notes
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Ornaments:

Trill (tr): Rapid alternation between two notes.

Grace Note (acciaccatura): A small note played quickly before the main note.

Mordent: A single alternation between a note and the one below or above it.



Summary:

Music theory provides the foundation for musical performance and composition.

Understanding rhythm, scales, key signatures, and musical terms allows musicians to interpret and express music effectively.

Practice with scales, time signatures, and musical notation is crucial for mastery.

