

Music Theory 1: An Introduction

Week 1 - Introduction to Pitch/Note Names

1. show how music utilizes different pitches (high notes vs. low notes) → explain how pitches are represented and identified by symbols positioned on a staff
2. introduce the letters used when referring to notes (A, B, C, D, E, F, G)
3. introduce how to read and identify notes on a staff (both treble and bass clef)
 - a. lines vs. spaces
 - b. use acronyms for easier memorization

example acronyms -

Treble clef :

Lines - Every Good Boy Deserves Fudge

Spaces - FACE

Bass clef :

Lines - Great Big Dogs Fight Animals

Spaces - All Cows Eat Grass

To practice:

<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/1/note-name-sight-reading-grand-staff-game/>

1. Click “remove ledger lines”
2. Switch between treble, bass, or grand staff
3. Switch between just lines or just spaces

Week 2 - Note Names cont. (with Accidentals and Ledger Lines)

1. review and continue practicing note names
2. introduce accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals)
3. introduce ledger lines (both treble and bass clef)

To practice:

- Website:
<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/1/note-name-sight-reading-grand-staff-game/> (identifying notes + notes with ledger lines)
- Worksheet:
<http://laciebowmanmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Theory-Worksheet-Identifying-Accidentals.pdf> (identifying notes with accidentals)
- Worksheet 2:
<http://laciebowmanmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Theory-Worksheets-Writing-Notes-with-Accidentals.pdf> (writing notes with accidentals)

Week 3 - Note Values and Equivalences

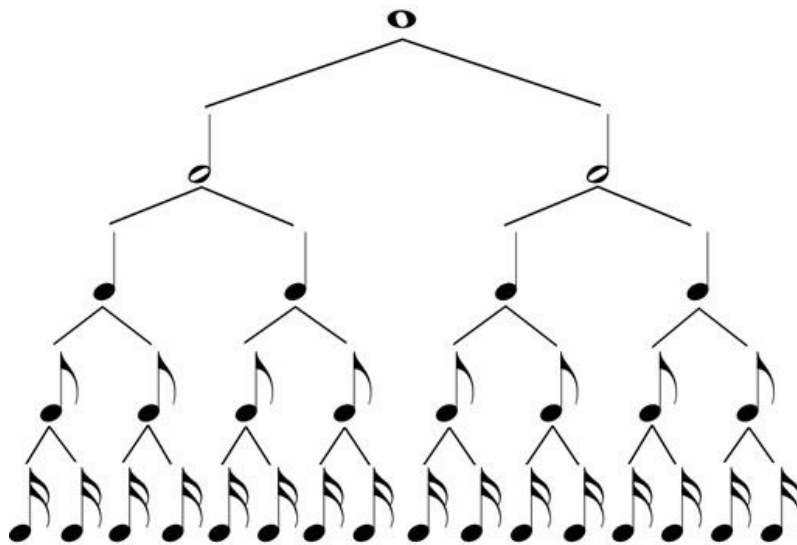
1. Introduce different note values (sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, whole)
2. Explain the equivalences of each note (ex. quarter + quarter = half)

We would like to acknowledge and thank Dr. Jacoby and their AP Music Theory (Music 400) class for inspiration in this curriculum.

3. Introduce some of the rest values if there's time (sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, whole)

To Practice:

- Have students create a note value equivalence “tree”



Week 4 - Note/Rest Values and Equivalences cont.

1. Review note values
2. Continue rest values and equivalences (sixteenth, eighth, quarter, half, whole)
3. Introduce more advanced note values (dotted, triplets, etc.) and rest values (dotted)

To practice:

- Have students create another tree or chart with more complex values for both notes and rests

Note:				
Divisions:				
2 parts				
3 parts				
Subdivisions:				
4 parts				
5 parts				
6 parts				
7 parts				

Week 5 - Time Signature/Rhythm

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1. Introduce the common time signatures
2. Explain what each number (top and bottom) represents
3. simple vs. compound meters and duple vs. triple, vs quadruple meters

To practice:

Worksheets: <http://www.musicatyourfingertips.co.uk/grade5theory/Time%20preliminary.pdf>

Week 6 - Writing Music Correctly

1. note stem directions and lengths
2. writing multiple melodies on a single staff
3. grouping/connecting notes correctly and effectively
4. writing chords

To practice: (sorry about the watermark)

Worksheet: have student copy down on blank staff paper

Assignment 1.8 Below are 18 measures of music. In each case, the notation is either confusing or incorrect. Rewrite each measure on the staff provided and clarify or correct the notation.

Week 7 - Major Scales + Whole/Half Steps

1. What is a scale?
2. Explain the differences between whole and half steps
3. Introduce the rule to write out a major scale when given a single starting point (WWHWWWH)

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To practice:

1. name a major scale
2. have the student write out the major scale using the WWHWWWH formula on blank staff paper

Worksheet:

<http://laciebowmanmusic.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Theory-Worksheet-Major-Scale-Notation.pdf>

Website:

<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/12/scale-mode-building-treble-staff-game/>

Week 8 - Key Signature

1. What does key signature indicate? Where can you find the key signature on sheet music?
2. Describe the order of sharps and flats when writing key signature
 - a. acronym for order of sharps - Fat Cats Go Down Alleys Eating Birds
 - b. “acronym” for order of flats - BEAD-GCF
3. Explain how to quickly figure out the major key from the number of sharps and flats
 - a. sharps - major key is the letter name right above the last sharp in the key signature
 - b. flats - major key is the 2nd to last flat in the key signature
ex. if the 2nd to last flat is A flat, the key is A flat major

To practice:

1. Worksheet (do not do relative minor yet):
<https://www.wku.edu/music/documents/keysig.pdf>
2. Name a major key → have the student write the key signature in the correct order
3. Name a certain amount of sharps/flat → have student respond with the correct major key
4. Website:
<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/11/key-signature-treble-identification-game/>

Week 9 - Minor Scales

1. Introduce the relationship between major and minor scales
2. Describe the different types of minor (natural, harmonic,
3. Explain the process of determining minor scales
 - a. relative vs. parallel

To practice:

1. Website: minor scale recognition and building
<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/11/key-signature-treble-identification-game/>

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<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/12/scale-mode-building-treble-staff-game/>

2. Name a minor scale → have student find the parallel/relative major + write out minor key signature and minor scale on blank staff paper

Week 10 - Major, Minor Scales cont.

1. Continue reviewing on ToneSavvy
<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/11/key-signature-treble-identification-game/>
<https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercise/12/scale-mode-building-treble-staff-game/>
2. Find pieces a music, cover up the key signature, and have students determine the key signature
3. Make a “circle of 5ths” chart together with students

Week 11 - Introduction to Intervals/Chords + Review/Catch-up

1. How do intervals and chords work? How do they contribute to a piece of music?
2. Naming intervals in relation to middle C



3. Review

ToneSavvy: <https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercises/>

- Note Names
- Paced Note Names
- Rhythm Dictation
- Rhythm Performance
- Key Signatures
- Scale Building

Week 12 - Review + Catch-Up

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- <https://tonesavvy.com/music-practice-exercises/>
- “Music in Theory and Practice Volume 1” - Bruce Benward

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