

COURSE OUTLINE

MUSC-110

Music Theory, Musicianship & Keyboard Skills I

4 Semester Hours

HOWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Description

Music Theory I is the first of a four-semester sequence of music theory courses required of all music majors. It offers an integrated approach to the study of musical structure that combines written work, ear-training, keyboard skills, and sight singing. After a very brief review of notation, rhythm, major and minor scales, and key signatures, the student will develop knowledge and understanding of the following: a basic introduction to harmony including intervals, chords and their inversions; non-harmonic tones, the writing of four-part harmony; and sight reading, melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic structures, and musical form in melody, as well as the appropriate functional keyboard skills. (4 hours lecture, 3 hours lab and additional practice time)

Overall Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Sight sing melodies which include leaps from the dominant triad and various forms of the minor scales. Sight singing will be done using syllables in the movable "Do" system.
2. Take accurate dictation of four bar melodies which include intervals up to a P5.
3. Perform rhythm exercises at sight which include dotted rhythms in simple time as well as the subdivided beat in a simple and compound time.
4. Recognize aurally the following: I & V, major and minor triads, triad factors in the outer voices of a four part texture.
5. Play I-IV-V-I triads in root position for all keys.
6. Identify key signatures, intervals, chord qualities and chord inversions at a speed which will contribute to sight reading proficiency.
7. Demonstrate keyboard proficiency by playing any interval, major or minor scales and arpeggios, and any major, minor, diminished or augmented triad in any inversion as specified by the instructor.
8. Analyze a musical excerpt using Roman numerals and label all non-harmonic tones.
9. Recognize various phrase structures through listening or through written analysis.
10. Harmonize a simple folk melody and "Happy Birthday" showing an understanding of harmonic progression and cadences.
11. Transpose a simple melody to any key, both by notation and by playing.

Major Topics

- I. Fundamentals of Music
 - A. Notation
 - B. Scales, tonality, key, modes
 - C. Intervals
 - D. Chords
- II. Structural Elements

- A. Instruments, voices, transposition
- B. Cadences, non-harmonic tones, harmonic rhythm
- C. Melodic structure
- D. Rhythm
- E. Texture

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: Grading procedures will be determined by the individual faculty member but will include the following:

Final grades will be based on written exams, sight singing, keyboard proficiency, and dictation.

Other Course Information

This course is an Arts and Sciences elective, a Fine Arts elective and a Humanities elective.