



Front Range Academy of Music

Group Music Theory & History Syllabus
Summer 2020 – starting first week of June

Each class will begin with a music theory lesson that introduces students to fundamental musical concepts. Music history lessons will not only continue the “story” of music from week to week, but will contain musical examples designed to reinforce recently learned theory concepts. Students will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite composer from each week, then vote again for the entire class’s “all-time favorite composer” at the end of the last week.

WEEK 1

Theory: Intervals & Introduction to Scale Degrees

- Melodic and harmonic intervals
- Introduction to major scales
- Scale degrees

History: Early Music & the Renaissance

- What is “Western music”?
- Early instruments & music notation
- Characteristics of Early & Renaissance music
- Musical Examples:
 - Gregorian chant
 - Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina

WEEK 2

Theory: Scales, Key Signatures, & the Circle of Fifths

- Circle of fifths
- Major, natural minor, & harmonic minor scales
- Key signatures
- Order of sharps & flats

History: Baroque

- Characteristics of Baroque music
- Musical Examples:
 - Johann Sebastian Bach
 - George Friedrich Handel

WEEK 3

Theory: Introduction to chords and inversions

- Major & minor triads
- Inversions
- Importance of tonic, subdominant, &

dominant

- Chord progressions

History: Classical

- Characteristics of classical music
- Styles in music, art, architecture, & literature are all related!
- Musical Examples:
 - Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 - Franz Joseph Haydn
 - Ludwig van Beethoven

WEEK 4

Theory: Musical form & its elements

- Melody & harmony
- Phrases & periods
- AB (binary), ABA (ternary), ABACA (rondo)

History: Romantic

- Characteristics of Romantic music
- Musical Examples:
 - Early Romantic: Beethoven (again!), Schubert, Chopin
 - Late Romantic: Tchaikovsky, Liszt, Rachmaninoff

WEEK 5

Theory: Rhythm & meter

- Subdivision
- Mixed & odd meter

History: Twentieth Century

- Characteristics of Twentieth Century music
- Musical Examples:
 - Igor Stravinsky
 - Arnold Schoenberg
 - Leonard Bernstein