Music Theory I 2020-2021
Burlington High School
7th Period, Room #160 and Google Meet
Mr. Sean Buchsbaum
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I. Course Overview
Students in this class will study rhythm, melody, harmony, and create musical compositions based on the concepts learned.

II. Successful Learning
There is no official textbook issued for this course. All concepts taught come from several different theory texts, which will be presented through daily notes and handouts. Those students who will be successful will ask questions, be organized and diligent in their note-taking, and explore their own creativity and thought process by engaging in the compositional process.

Materials for Class:
- Some means of collecting any paper handouts, whether it is a binder, folder, or divider within a notebook. You must have this with you for every class period.
- Manuscript/Staff Paper - please keep a copy of the 2-column notes/staff paper template in your binder.
- iPad or ChromeBook with access to Google Drive and Classroom accounts.
- Pencil(s)
- Access to music notation software (Sibelius) - to be determined.

All students should have headphones (as required by BHS) that allow them to participate in individual listening on devices as needed.

III. Student Learning Expectations
The student will recognize, appreciate, and analyze the rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic foundations of pieces composed in all styles of music. The student will be able to compose music in many different styles using the concepts taught in class.

IV. Expected Outcomes
Students will learn to analyze music and to read it critically. They will use technology such as Sibelius to create original pieces of music, which will be produced as professional audio tracks that are individually produced by each student.

V. Topics/Content
To understand what topics are covered in Music Theory I, here is a list of all composition assignments that were completed by last year’s class:
Music Theory I Composition Assignments (2019-20)

1. Composition 1: Duple Meter Patterns/Incredibox
2. Composition 2: Triple Meter Patterns/Incredibox
3. Composition 3a: Melody Practice Composition - Major
4. Composition 3b: Melody Practice Composition - Minor
5. Composition 3c: 8-Bar Melody MAJOR or MINOR
6. BCAT Composition Contest
7. BCAT Composition Artist Statement
8. Composition 4: Major Key Composition Using Accidentals
9. Composition 5: Minor Key Composition Using Accidentals
10. Composition 5 Artist Statement
11. Composition 6: Combining Melody and Harmony in Major
12. Composition 7: Combining Melody and Harmony in Minor
13. Chord Progression Classwork
14. Composition 8: Writing Melody Given Harmony with Inversions
15. Composition 8 Artist Statement
16. Chord Order Assignment #1
17. Composing with Cadences - MAJOR
18. Composing with Cadences - MINOR
19. Composing with "Tonic Expansion"
20. Final Project - Seniors
21. Composing with Melodic Motives
22. Final Project - Non-Seniors

VI. Assessing Progress
Grades will be recorded based on progress in the following areas:
- Composition Projects (PRIMARY GRADE, Several/quarterly)
- Homework (Occasional as needed for skill development)

Written Music Theory (Non-Aural, 50%)
Throughout the year, students will learn symbols and standard procedures for decoding and creating written music. Primarily we will use note-taking to introduce and practice these concepts.

Listening Music Theory Skills (Aural, 50%)
In addition to learning written theory, students will train their ears and body to recognize and respond to aural music. Students will also learn to sing/play music they do not hear first (sight-reading), and they will learn to write music they hear (dictating).

**DUE TO COVID-19, SINGING IS NOT ALLOWED (as of 9.14.20) ON CAMPUS.**

VII. Classroom Expectations
Theory classes will take place in the Theory Room and simultaneously on Google Meet. In the Theory Room, desks will be socially distanced from one another. Students will wipe down their desks at the beginning of class. As is the current policy with all BHS in-person classes, masks will be required throughout the duration of the class period.

Tuesday (68 minutes) - 3 students in-person, 2 students at-home
Wednesday (30 minutes) - 5 students at home
Friday (68 minutes) - 1 students in-person, 4 students at-home
Because the live-stream on Google Meet will take place synchronously, students from both cohorts are expected to attend class on both class meetings.

VIII. Homework/Makeup Policy
Homework will be assigned as concepts are introduced to students and mastery of material becomes essential for composition and creation. Students will have the opportunity to make adjustments based on the feedback that they receive in class. Please contact Mr. Buchsbaum directly for any immediate concerns about assignments or grading.

VI. Additional Information
Almost all projects are done on the computer using Sibelius software. Homework (as well as major projects) can be done at home on your own computer submitted via Google Classroom.