

# **Music Theory and Composition 2022-2023**

Burlington High School

1st Period, Room #160

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 - provided (or see link in Google Classroom)
- iPad with access to Google Drive and Classroom accounts.
- Pencil(s)
- Access to music notation software - Noteflight Learn and GarageBand (provided)

***All students should have headphones that allow them to participate in individual listening on devices as needed.***

## **III. Student Learning Expectations**

The student will recognize, appreciate, and create the rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic foundations of pieces composed in different 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 read music and understand musical notation. They will use technology such as NoteFlight and GarageBand to create original pieces of music, which will be produced as audio tracks and data files.

## **V. Topics/Content**

To understand what topics are covered in Music Theory and Composition, here is a list of all composition assignments that were completed by last year's class:

## **Music Theory Composition Assignments (2021-22)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Composition 1: Duple Ostinato                                  | 11. Composition 10: Experimenting with                      |
| 2. Composition 2: "Incredibox" in Duple<br>Meter                  | Diatonic Triads in Minor                                    |
| 3. Composition 3: Triple Ostinato                                 | 12. Composition 11: Composing with Chord<br>Styles          |
| 4. Composition 4: Incredibox in<br>Triple/Compound Meter          | 13. Mini-Composition 12: Transposing from<br>Major to Minor |
| 5. Composition 4 Artist Statement                                 | 14. Composition 13: 12-Bar Blues Project 1                  |
| 6. Composition 5: Compose a Melody!                               | 15. Composition 14: 12-Bar Blues Project 2                  |
| 7. Composition 6: Compose a Melody -<br>Round 2                   | 16. Composition 15: Composing in<br>Mixolydian Mode         |
| 8. Composition 7: Compose a Minor Melody                          | 17. Composition 16: GarageBand Groups                       |
| 9. Composition 8: Compose a Minor Melody<br>- Round 2             | 18. Composition 17: GarageBand Individual                   |
| 10. Composition 9: Experimenting with<br>Diatonic Triads in Major | 19. Composition 18: Stock Images                            |
|   | 20. Composition 19: Devil's Sunrise<br>Competition          |
|   | 21. Composition 20: Final Project                           |

## **VI. Assessing Progress**

Grades will be recorded based on progress in the following areas:

- Composition Projects (PRIMARY GRADE, Several/quarterly)
- Musictheory.net Assignments (As needed for skill development)

## **Written Music Theory (Non-Aural)**

Throughout the year, students will learn symbols and standard procedures for decoding and creating written music. We will use note-taking to introduce and practice these concepts.

## **Listening Music Theory Skills (Aural)**

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).

## **VII. Classroom Expectations**

1. Be on time to class with your materials.
2. Respect the equipment, the art form, your classmates, yourself, and your teacher(s).
3. **No food or drink in the lab!**

## **VIII. Classwork/Makeup Policy**

Classwork 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.