



# AP MUSIC THEORY

## Summer Assignments

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AP Music Theory Students and Parents,

Please take the time to read all of the information below so that you understand the demands of the AP Music Theory course. If you have any questions or problems, please do not hesitate to contact me by e-mail. Students will be expected to take a diagnostic quiz on the first day of class. Please use the information in this letter to help you prepare.

Advanced Placement courses are presented on a college level using college-level textbooks. AP Music Theory runs like the first year of a college music theory experience, developing both theoretical and aural skills. In May, students will take the AP Music Theory Exam. Students who score well may receive college credit for up to a year of Music Theory and/or Aural Skills.

Like other AP courses offered at Houston Academy, there are summer assignments for this course. We have much content to cover during the year including extensive aural skills (ear training) and students are expected to do preparatory work prior to the first day of class. All of the students enrolled in AP Music Theory have various musical experiences and sections of the summer assignments may feel like review for some or may introduce completely new material. Either way it is vital to complete the summer assignments so that we can all start on common ground in August.

Attached are the summer assignments that you are expected to complete and bring with you on the first day of class. The online pages will be your first graded assignments. You will also be graded on your list of terms attached below – use these terms as a study guide for your First-Day Quiz. You may have to work hard to understand this material. Ask questions; seek help; use resources. You cannot cram for the AP Music Theory Exam. Each skill builds on the other, so it is essential that you understand the early material in order to grasp material we will cover later in the year.

On the first day of class in August, there will be a diagnostic quiz on the topics listed on the following pages. Doing well on the quiz will require some summer studying, even if you have prior music theory knowledge. Don't be afraid of it – it's an efficient way for me to check everyone's knowledge and make sure that my plans for the year will move at the right pace.

Good luck with your summer assignment. Please e-mail me if you have any questions about the summer assignments or expectations for the course.

Sincerely,

Mr. James A. Holmes  
Director of Bands  
Performing Arts Department Chair  
Houston Academy  
[holmesj@houstonacademy.com](mailto:holmesj@houstonacademy.com)

# Summer Assignment #1

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## Online Lessons

*The following lessons can be found on [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net). Please read the following directions and follow each lesson in its entirety.*

## Directions

1. Go to [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net).
2. Select Lessons.
3. Go through the following lessons in their entirety:
  - a. The Staff, Clefs, and Ledger Lines
  - b. Note Duration
  - c. Measures and Time Signature
  - d. Rest Duration
  - e. Dots and Ties
  - f. Steps and Accidentals
  - g. Simple and Compound Meter
  - h. Odd Meter
  - i. The Major Scale
  - j. The Minor Scales
  - k. Scale Degrees
  - l. Key Signature Calculation
  - m. Generic Intervals
  - n. Specific Intervals
  - o. Writing Intervals

# Summer Assignment #2

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## Terms: Introduction, Chapter 1 & Chapter 2

*Define each of the following terms as they relate to music. Please write clearly on notebook paper and leave a space between each term. Keep each set of terms separated from each other. Feel free to use your text book, or these online music dictionaries as an aid:*

1. [www.music.vt.edu/musicdictionary](http://www.music.vt.edu/musicdictionary)
2. [www.naxos.com/education/glossary.asp](http://www.naxos.com/education/glossary.asp)

### **Introduction**

Sound  
Pitch  
Tone  
Intensity

Duration  
Meter  
Beat  
Rhythm

Timbre  
Harmonic Series  
Partials  
Fundamental

### **Chapter 1**

Staff  
Clefs  
Treble Clef  
Bass Clef  
Grand Staff  
Middle C  
Ledger Lines  
Accidentals  
Sharp

Flat  
Natural  
Double Sharp  
Double Flat  
Interval  
Enharmonic  
Equivalents  
Pulse  
Meter Signatures

Simple Meter  
Compound Meter  
Duple Meter  
Triple Meter  
Quadruple Meter  
Asymmetrical Meter  
Syncopation  
Dynamic Marking

### **Chapter 2**

Scale  
Pitch Class  
Diatonic Scales  
Tonic  
Scale Degree Names  
Major Scale  
Tetrachord

Key Signature  
Natural Minor Scale  
Harmonic Minor Scale  
Melodic Minor Scale  
Relative Minor  
Relative Major  
Circle of Fifths

Parallel Relationship  
Tonality  
Key  
Pentatonic Scale  
Solfeggio

# Summer Assignment #3

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## Online Exercises: Note Identification, Key Signature Identification, Interval Identification

*The following exercise can be found on [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net). Please read the following directions to complete this assignment.*

### Directions

1. Copy each quiz web link into your Internet browser.
2. Click Start Challenge.
3. If you don't like your score, then do it again!
4. **IMPORTANT:** To receive credit for these assignments you must click on the **Information button** on the upper right part of your screen (three dots) and select **View Report**. Type your name in the appropriate space then print the report. Turn in all progress reports at our first class.

**Assignment #3 part A:** Note Identification Treble Clef

[www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/brwrybynyyywy](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/brwrybynyyywy)

**Assignment #3 part B:** Note Identification Bass Clef

[www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/nrwyrybynyyywy](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/nrwyrybynyyywy)

**Assignment #3 part C:** Note Identification Grand Staff

[www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/oy99uypyrybynyyywy](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/note/oy99uypyrybynyyywy)

**Assignment #3 part D:** Key Signature Identification

[www.musictheory.net/exercises/keysig/oy999yyyywy](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/keysig/oy999yyyywy)

**Assignment #3 part E:** Interval Identification

[www.musictheory.net/exercises/interval/drwy9yrh98nbnyyywy](http://www.musictheory.net/exercises/interval/drwy9yrh98nbnyyywy)