

# MUSICIANSHIP PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- **READY SET READ/INTRO TO MUSICIANSHIP** (*ages 5-8*)
- **MUSICIANSHIP I** (*ages 7-10*)
- **MUSICIANSHIP II** (*ages 9-11*)
- **MUSICIANSHIP III** (*ages 10-13*)
- **MUSICIANSHIP IV** (*ages 12-15*)
- **PRE-COLLEGE** (*ages 15-18; pre-requisite level IV or teacher recommendation*)

## **READY SET READ/INTRO TO MUSICIANSHIP**

Ready Set Read and Introduction to Musicianship are classes that introduce some of the important activities and areas of Musicianship; compared to Musicianship Levels 1-3, the concepts are simpler, and the presentation and classroom setting are less formalized.

These classes are intended for younger students (ages 5 – 8) in the first or second year of instrumental study, with no prior note-reading experience.

Students in this age range with excellent concentration, much classroom experience, or much previous experience playing an instrument and/or reading notes can and should skip this level, starting instead with Musicianship 1.

Ready Set Read has less emphasis on note reading than Introduction to Musicianship; apart from this, the content of the two classes is similar and includes the following:

- Basic improvisation, involving simple rhythmic patterns
- Creation of symbols for different musical situations (pitch, duration, speed)
- Verbal description of emotional and structural aspects of music
- Performance of simple songs and rhymes, with attention to concepts of interval, contour and motive
- Recognizing and drawing the treble and bass clef (Intro)
- Recognizing common dynamic markings and note values from whole through eighth note (Intro)
- Reading and recognizing relative relationships of pitches with and without the staff
- Following the contour of a simple melody
- Being able to verbalize simple musical concepts relating to pitch, duration, rhythmic patterns or dynamics.

## MUSICIANSHIP I

By the end of their time spent in Musicianship I, students should be able to:

- Recognize note and rest values from whole notes through 16<sup>th</sup> notes and understand how they fit into larger rhythmic patterns within time signatures including 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4 (T)
- Write and hear melodic and harmonic intervals (without specifying qualities) up to a 5<sup>th</sup> (T)
- Read notes in treble and bass clef on the staff, both lines and spaces (T)
- Recognize accidentals including flats, sharps, and naturals (T)
- Hear the difference between steps and skips
- Follow the contour of a simple melody (mostly stepwise motion with a few skips)
- Recognize the lengths of tied notes using whole, half, quarter notes; hear rhythms that use dotted half notes (T)
- Recognize and understand commonly used dynamic markings
- Remember the names and historical order of the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods
- Name the different families of orchestral instruments

Items marked with the (T) will be tested on the year-end test to pass up to level II.

In addition to the year-end test (which is optional and not mandatory), there will be occasional testing in the above skills during the year, in order to assess progress and provide students with feedback.

The test will take the form of written exercises related to the concepts being taught and aural exercises.

## MUSICIANSHIP II

By the end of their time spent in Musicianship II, students should be able to:

- Recognize note and rest values from whole notes through 16<sup>th</sup> notes and understand how they fit into larger rhythmic patterns within time signatures including 4/4, 3/4 and 2/4 and 6/8 (T)
- Write and hear melodic intervals (without specifying qualities) up to an octave (T)
- Read notes in treble and bass clef up to two leger lines above and below the staff (T)
- Recognize all accidentals including double flats and sharps (T)
- Understand the difference between half and whole-steps
- Construct a major scale from any note using the formula of half and whole-steps (T)
- Remember major-key signatures through 3 sharps and flats (T)
- Recognize tied and dotted rhythms (including dotted half, dotted quarter and dotted eighth notes) (T)
- Recognize and understand commonly used dynamic markings, accents, staccatos, slurs and sforzandos
- Name three composers for Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods
- Name two instruments from each family of instruments

Items marked with the (T) will be tested on the year-end test to pass up to level III.

In addition to the year-end test (which is optional and not mandatory), there will be occasional testing in the above skills during the year, in order to assess progress and provide students with feedback.

The test will take the form of written exercises related to the concepts being taught and aural exercises, mostly dictations.

## MUSICIANSHIP III

Level III represents a significant jump in musical sophistication, with the introduction of beginning concepts of harmony. Students should be prepared to listen attentively, take notes occasionally, and engage in discussion using the given terminology.

By the end of their time spent in Musicianship level 2, students should be able to:

- Recognize all major, minor and perfect intervals within the octave; also recognize diminished 5ths, augmented 4ths, and augmented 2nds (T)
- Identify all major and minor key signatures (T)
- Find enharmonic equivalents for any note (T)
- Find the root and quality (major, minor, augmented, diminished) of any given triad (T)
- Write the Roman/Arabic numeral symbol for any given triad that places it correctly within a given key (T)
- Tell whether a given triad is in root position, 1<sup>st</sup> inversion or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (T)
- Hear whether a given triad is major, minor, augmented, diminished (T)
- Hear correctly a given melody that uses triadic patterns (T)
- Hear correctly a given rhythm that uses syncopated rhythms and dotted rhythms involving dotted quarter and/ or dotted eighth notes (T)
- Read and arrange triads in a two-staff four-part arrangement (closed and open spacing) (T)
- Understand the relative minor and parallel minor relationships
- Construct the 3 different forms of the minor scale
- Construct the circle of fifths for major keys and its relative minor equivalent
- Name five composers for Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods
- Name four instruments from each family of instruments

Items marked with the (T) will be tested on the year-end test to pass up to level IV.

In addition to the year-end test (which is optional and not mandatory), there will be occasional testing in the above skills during the year, in order to assess progress and provide students with feedback.

The test will take the form of written exercises related to the concepts being taught and aural exercises, mostly dictations.

## MUSICIANSHIP IV

Students should be prepared to listen attentively, take notes occasionally, and engage in discussion using the given terminology.

This class will involve a large amount of new information, as well as strengthening of old concepts, and may require 2 – 3 years of classes.

By the end of their time spent in the level IV, students should be able to:

- Recognize all major, minor and perfect intervals within the octave; also recognize diminished 5ths, augmented 4ths, and augmented 2nds (T)
- Identify all major and minor key signatures (T)
- Read simple passages in alto or tenor clef (T)
- Find the root and quality (major, minor, augmented, diminished) of any given triad or 7<sup>th</sup> chord (T)
- Write the Roman/Arabic numeral symbol for a series of chords in 4-part chorale style (T)
- Tell whether a given triad or 7<sup>th</sup> chord is in root position, 1<sup>st</sup> inversion or 2<sup>nd</sup> inversion (T)
- Transpose a simple melody from one key to any other give key (T)
- Have an understanding of simple secondary dominant relationships
- Understand how compound time signatures work (T)
- Rewrite rhythms in other meters (T)
- Identify common types of nonharmonic tones (T)
- Place any major composer in the Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern periods, as well as in his correct country of origin or residence (T)
- Place any given instrument in its instrumental family (T)
- Understand the concepts of motive and contour and their place in analyzing melodies
- Be familiar with period and sentence phrasing structures
- Be familiar with the basic blueprints of larger formal patterns such as sonata, rondo, variation, binary, ABA, etc.
- Be familiar with the basic cadence patterns and harmonic functions (tonic, predominant, dominant).

Items marked with the (T) will be tested on the year-end test to pass up to Pre-College.

## PRE-COLLEGE

The Pre-College Level is designed for high-school students who have achieved the equivalent of Elective Level proficiency, and who intend to continue their musical studies in some manner after finishing high school.

Students should be prepared to listen attentively, take notes occasionally, and engage in discussion using the given terminology.

Pre-College level will combine a strong basic knowledge of theory with historical knowledge, producing an ability to analyze larger forms in detail and understand different styles.

By the end of their time spent in the Pre-College level, students should be able to:

- Recognize all commonly used chords and non-chord tunes within the Western classical common-practice tradition (1600-1900) (T)
- Remember and recognize the common formal patterns within that tradition (T)
- Understand the concept of modulation and how modulation works (T)
- Harmonize a bass line (from figures or roman numerals) or melody in 4-part writing without mistakes (T)
- Given a short piece in a common-practice style, find the formal divisions (sections, phrases, phrase patterns and cadences), analyze the chord structures, and comment on the style and historical context (T)
- Know the names and approximate dates of all major composers within the Western classical tradition from 1650 – 1950 (T)
- Understand how compound and irregular time signatures work (T)
- BE familiar with the developmental devices that are used within the common-practice period and apply them to the analysis of a piece (T)
- BE acquainted with the harmonic, melodic, and rhythmic resources of the 20<sup>th</sup> century music (T)

Items marked with the (T) will be tested on the year-end test to pass out of Pre-College level.

In addition to the year-end test (which is optional and not mandatory), there will be occasional testing in the above skills during the year, in order to assess progress and provide students with feedback.