

## **Introduction to Music Notation and Reading: Course Information**

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### Overview:

Welcome. Do you want to make music more a part of your life? Are you a complete beginner on your instrument? Don't even play an instrument but wish to expand your knowledge and vocabulary? Can't remember much from your studies years and years ago? We'll get you up to speed by covering the basics of music notation and theory while emphasizing the joy and importance of *music-making*. This course will serve as an introduction to some of the important aspects of music reading and theory with the guiding philosophy that everybody is capable of learning and enjoying this process.

### Materials:

The textbook we will use, *Music Notation and Theory for Intelligent Beginners* was written especially for the CMC theory class series. It is available for free in PDF format from this website:

**[www.jkornfeld.net/cmc.htm](http://www.jkornfeld.net/cmc.htm)** – then look for the “theory text” link

You will also be able to download a copy of the syllabus from the “Basic Theory” link. Please keep this link bookmarked, as I will be referring to the page throughout the quarter.

You will need staff paper which can also be downloaded from the website. Print out as much as you like. I suggest that you keep the text and staff paper in a 3-ring binder. I also recommend that you use a pencil with a good eraser for note-taking and especially for homework. Homework with crossed-out pen is very much unappreciated.

I also suggest that you have or create regular access to some kind of keyboard device. A piano is ideal, but any electronic keyboard that covers the span of three octaves (around 36 keys) will do fine. At worst, you can refer to one of the keyboard diagrams found in the text—or draw your own.

### Classes and Curriculum:

Classes will be a combination of discussion, lecture, weekly-assignment reviews and music-making exercises, where everybody will be encouraged, but not required to participate. Refer to the syllabus on the reverse page for dates, topics and assignments.

### Homework and Participation:

There will be weekly assignments. At each meeting we will review and discuss assignments, which is an excellent opportunity for exploring and sharing questions and problems. You will find the range of questions regarding even the most simple of topics surprisingly stimulating.

### Attendance:

If you are not able to make it to a class, please notify me in advance. I will gladly do my best to brief you on what will be/was missed if you make the effort to contact me. Please take advantage of this!