

General Music Theory Course Information

Jono Kornfeld: jkornfeld@sfcmc.org

Introduction:

Welcome. This set of courses will explore some of the basic aspects of standard Western music theory. Whether you play an instrument or not, if you have a working knowledge of music notation and a desire to explore some of the components and structures of music, then this is the right class for you. Although music notation and theory have their roots in Western European music, we will be considerate and aware of many styles.

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/complete_theory_text.pdf

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. 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!