

LAFAYETTE CHORAL DEPARTMENT

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AP Music Theory Students and Parents,

You are receiving this letter because you or your son/daughter is enrolled in A.P. Music Theory for the 2006-07 school year. Please take the time to read all of the information below so that you understand the demands of the course. Please feel free to contact me via the email address or phone number above if you have any questions or problems.

About the Course

Advanced Placement courses are the most advanced courses taught at Lafayette. They are presented on a college level, using a college level text. Each May, students that are enrolled in A.P. courses take a national standardized exam to test their knowledge in their A.P. subject. Students who score well have the potential to receive college credit. The A.P. Music Theory test cost \$82 in 2006 and should be very close to that amount in 2007. Taking the exam is expected.

Summer Preparation

As with many Advanced Placement courses, we are introducing a summer preparation list. We have much content to cover during the year including extensive aural training therefore students are expected to do preparatory work prior to the first day of class. Since most of the students enrolled are students with previous music theory experience, this work will primarily be review. We have found that even students with prior theory background are rusty or have holes in their knowledge. This work is imperative to a successful year. Those students with no prior music theory experience will benefit from this summer study and this will place them in good standing for the coming year.

The Test

On the first day of class, there will be a diagnostic test including the below listed topics. The test will likely require some summer study from you, even if you have prior music theory background. Please review, and work to understand this material.

Attached is a list of topics that will be covered on the test as well as several internet sources for you to consult for instruction and practice questions. I strongly urge you to peruse these and come to class well-prepared.

Parents, please encourage your students to not neglect this work! It should not take very long nor take much time away from the summer!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for any help you may need.

Sincerely,

Ryan Marsh



Lafayette High School – AP Music Theory
Summer Work list

Concepts

- Identify notes on treble, bass, alto and tenor clefs
- Identify rhythmic symbols and their values
- Demonstrate understanding of meter signatures
- Demonstrate understanding of rhythmic notation and organization
- Notate and identify major scales
- Notate and identify all three forms of the minor scales
- Identify major and minor key signatures
- Identify triad qualities, major, minor, augmented and diminished

In order to prepare for this test, you should use the resources below.

Murray State Theory

For your primary source, you should consult the Music Theory Site of Murray State University. The Murray State website is designed for use by Murray State students and for students outside the university. You will not be enrolling for credit or taking exams. You will be using the site for instruction and for practice questions which are found at the end of each chapter. If you find yourself in a chapter that you already know, skip to the last few pages of the chapter and do the practice questions. You can always go back and review material that may be unfamiliar to you.

Go to <http://www.murraystate.edu/qacd/cfac/music/mus109entry.htm>

Click ENTER.

Click on Chapter Index.

The Chapters you should complete are listed below:

- Ch. 1 - Musical Symbols
- Ch. 2 - Note and Rest Values
- Ch. 3 - Rhythm (however, you do not have to know the counting system on page 3)
- Ch. 4 - Meter Signatures (you do not have to know the counting system, pp. 4-5)
- Ch. 7 - Major Scales (pages 14-19 will be challenging; you should attempt them, but realize that you won't be expected to do this perfectly in August.)
- Ch. 8 - Minor Scales (you do not need to do pages 12, 15, 19-24)
- Ch. 9 - Key Signatures (you do not need to do pages 15, 23-26)
- Ch. 10 Triads (Pg 1-9)

MusicTheory.Net

Another website that will be helpful is www.musictheory.net. At this site, you can find lessons (instruction) on several topics, including note reading, rhythmic values, key signatures, scales and triads. You can also find trainers (practice questions) on these topics. You can set the parameters of what you want to practice by choosing your topic and then clicking on the settings button for that trainer. In the Note Trainer, for instance, you can choose which clef you want to practice. If you need help figuring out a practice question, click on Toggle Helpers for guides. In the trainers section, there is no set number of questions. The trainer will keep giving you problems until you use your back button to return to the starting page. This is a great way to build up speed on note reading and key signatures.

EasyMusicTheory.Com

You may also wish to consult www.easymusictheory.com for free lessons on some basic concepts.

www.LafayetteChoir.org/aptheory.html

This summer work list and links are also available on the AP Theory site hosted on the Lafayette Choir Website (www.lafayettechoir.org),

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need assistance or further explanation. Don't let this intimidate you – but use this as an opportunity to prepare yourself for a successful year!

Good luck in your preparation.