

# Performing Arts Department

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CWPerformingArts.info

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Community + Process = Results

Building a Community of Life-Long Artists

## Music Theory

Canal Winchester High School offers Beginning and Advanced Music Theory Classes open to all students. The department is committed to creating excellence in Music Education using the Academic Content Standards laid down by the Ohio Department of Education. While not officially an AP Class, many of the course concepts and assignments are taken from the AP Music Theory curriculum. Compositions will range from a few measures to 36 or more measures. The course grade is a composite of the student's ability to follow the assignments' goals and their grade for assigned on-line homework. Each composition and on-line assignment may be resubmitted as many times as necessary to achieve mastery of the concept. The recorded grade will be changed to reflect the mastery.

By the end of **Beginning Music Theory/Song Writing Class**, students are expected to become proficient at using all major key signatures and scales, all popular meter signatures, treble and bass clefs and classic progression. The class will create melodies using harmonic and non-harmonic tones and will be able to choose the appropriate chords to accompany their compositions.

By the end of **Advanced Music Theory/Song Writing Class**, students are expected to become proficient at using all minor key signatures and scales, non-popular meter signatures, secondary dominants, non-diatonic progressions and extended harmonies. The class will create melodies using harmonic and non-harmonic tones and will be able to choose the appropriate chords to accompany their compositions.

Music Theory students may use the department MIDI lab, their personal devices and the school owned Chrome Books throughout the course. With developments in software, it's impossible to list all the programs available to our students. The class is encouraged to search out new programs and bring them to the class' attention. Primarily, software will fall into four categories:

- 1) **Notation**, ie. Finale, Sibelius, Noteflight, Muse Score, Flat.
- 2) **Sequence/Loop**, ie. GarageBand, FL Studio, Cube Base, Audio Tool.
- 3) **Accompaniment**, ie. Band In A Box, ImproVisor.
- 4) **Recording**, ie. Pro Tools, Audacity.

*It is vital that all Notation software be able to export and print the composition. All software must be able to import and export MIDI files.*

The online resource, [www.musictheory.net](http://www.musictheory.net) will be used to re-enforce the classroom lessons and as graded homework assignments. Links to all on-line assignments in Staff Identification, Keyboard Identification and Ear Training can be found on the department website: <https://cwperformingarts.info/music-theory-graded-homework.html>



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In the classroom, the student is expected to attend and participate in every scheduled class and not to be a distraction to other students. Cell phones, tablet computers and similar electronic devices are rarely needed in our music classroom. Therefore all such items should be put away unless express permission is granted. Students will be given one warning to store their device. Any further unpermitted use will result in a deduction of 5 points from the student's Behavior Grade. Please refer to the grading rubric below.

## **Grading Rubric**

*Each 9 weeks, every student begins with 100 points for their daily Class Work – 50 pts for Behavior and 50 pts for Participation.*

Deductions are made for the following issues:

Repeated use of unpermitted electronic devices – 5pts each offence.

Repeated talking and other disruptive behavior – 3-25 pts.

Repeated non-participation – 5-25 pts.

*Students will be assigned worksheets to help understand the concepts of Music Theory and structured compositions to show application of those concepts. The scores for these assignments will vary between 30 to 100 pts.*

*Through out the class, students will be assigned on-line Music Theory Graded Homework. The homework is worth 40 pts and each student must earn at least 32/40 to complete the assignment. The homework may be done multiple times to earn the minimum score. Students have 48 hours after the assignment is given to complete their first attempt.*

