

Music 124 - Beginning Theory Skills
Jim Scully, Instructor

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Days and Times: T and TR from 11:20 to 12:10 PM in Music Building, room 118

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM. I am also available for appointments outside of these times if need be. Contact me by phone or email to request an appointment.

Required Books:

Music for Sight Singing, 7th Edition by Robert W. Ottman

Studying Rhythm by Anne Carothers Hall

Recommended Books:

Melodia: A Course in Sight Singing Solfeggio by Samuel W. Cole and Leo R. Lewis

Rhythmic Training by Robert Starer

The Grammar of Conducting - A Comprehensive Guide to Baton Technique and Interpretation
by Max Rudolf

The **required** textbooks should be available in the Runner Bookstore. The **recommended** textbooks are simply other books that are likely to show up again in your studies at CSUB and could be helpful to you in your studies in the Theory Skills cycle of courses this year. I encourage you to shop around when purchasing these books...they can be very expensive.

Other Required Materials: Electronic Metronome, Manuscript Paper (quite a lot of it!), pencils, and headphones with a 1/8 inch audio adapter. Please have these items by the 2nd week of classes.

Attendance: Daily attendance is **REQUIRED**.

Assignments: There are **WEEKLY** assignments in some or all of the following disciplines: sight singing, interval recognition, rhythmic training, keyboard skills and dictation. You will be tested on these assignments **EVERY WEEK**. The tests are administered in many ways - here is the breakdown:

One-on-one testing with the instructor: The sight singing, rhythmic training and keyboard aspects will be tested individually **OUTSIDE** of class time. Students will sign-up for an appropriate time block when they will be tested on the specific assignment for that week.

The tests will be held on **Friday mornings between 8 AM and 12 noon** - most likely in an empty practice room. There will be **three (3)** of these one-on-one exams throughout the quarter, with each one being worth roughly 100 points.

In-Class Dictation Exams: There will be **four (4)** in-class dictation exams. Students will be tested on melody, rhythm, intervals and chord progressions during class time on certain

Thursdays. These dictation exams are worth between 50 and 75 points each, depending on the length of the excerpts that need to be notated.

Final Exam: There will be a final exam that consists of 50 intervals (covering the whole octave) and a series of short melodic and rhythmic dictations. This will be held at the assigned Final Exam time for MUS 124 - Tuesday Nov. 24 from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm.

Test Schedule and Specific Assigned Tasks:

Thursday 10/1 (in-class dictation exam): Intervals (P4, P5, P8) & Basic Rhythmic dictation.

Friday 10/9 (individual exam): Keyboard Assignment (major & minor scales); Rhythm (Ottman pp. 1-11 & Hall 7-25); Sight-Singing (major scales, Ottman p. 28-30 & 32-34).

Thursday 10/22 (in-class dictation exam): Intervals (2nds & 3rds) & Basic Rhythmic and Melodic dictation.

Friday 10/23 (individual exam): Keyboard (triads - major, minor, diminished & augmented; diatonic triads in major and natural minor and 7th chords - MM, mm, Mm, dm and dd versions); Rhythm (Hall pp. 26-35); Sight-Singing (major scales, Ottman p. 51-55 and minor scales 68-75).

Thursday 11/5 (in-class dictation exam): Intervals (6ths) & Basic Rhythmic and Melodic dictation.

Thursday 11/19 (in-class dictation exam): Intervals (7ths) & Basic Rhythmic and Melodic dictation.

Friday 11/20 (individual exam): Keyboard: Progressions (I-IV-I & I-I6-IV-IV6-V-V6-I & I-IV-V-I) in major and minor keys; Rhythm (Hall pp. 36-45); Sight-Singing (minor scales, Ottman p. 82-88 and 92-95).

Note from the instructor:

The material we cover in Music 124 will closely coincide with the material we are covering in Music 122. The point of the two courses is very simple: Theory class teaches the theoretical concepts of music while Theory Skills class makes sure that the student is able to actually accomplish those concepts on the keyboard and through the human voice.

The two courses are intertwined, and one is much less effective without the other. Because Music 124 is only a one-unit course does not mean it is somehow "less important" than Music 122. On the contrary, the Theory Skills cycle is probably the most important group of courses you will take as a music major at CSUB.

Syllabus Subject to Change