

Advanced Problems in Music Theory – (AVPA_M Core, also an Elective)
Trimesters 1-2

Advanced Problems in Music Theory and Technology is a two-trimester, twice-weekly course, and is a continuation of AP Theory. Advanced Problems in Music Theory will involve the French, Italian, and German augmented sixth and Neapolitan chords, composition of fugue expositions, continuing studies in counterpoint, including twentieth-century counterpoint. Advanced harmonic analysis will include the late romantic literature and will begin analysis of twentieth-century music (Bartok, Stravinsky, etc.). Prerequisite: successful completion of AP Theory. Instructor will determine eligibility. Advanced Theory prepares students for future study in conducting, interpretation of music, performance preparation, and ensemble skills. In addition, students will continue to make use of the MIDI lab in completing their composition assignments, using ear training software, and using recording studio software to record and edit their work.

AP Music Theory in the Digital Age – (AVPA_Music Core, also an Elective)
Full Year

AP Music Theory is a year-long course and prepares the student for the College Board AP Exam. However, it should be noted that the course does not merely "teach to a test". All portions of study are directly applicable to the student's musicianship. Beginning with the fundamentals of tone, intervals, and scale and triad construction, the course proceeds through phrase analysis and construction, Roman numeral harmonic analysis, non-chord tones, two voiced species counterpoint, four-part chorale-style composition, the dominant and non-dominant sevenths, vii^{o7} and their inversions, analysis of segments of the standard repertoire, and analysis of binary and ternary forms. It should also be noted that ear training comprises nearly fifty percent of the exam and is covered extensively in this course. Sight singing, melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic dictation, and listening analysis of orchestral literature comprise a sizeable (approximately forty percent) of the curriculum. Students also have the option to attend off-campus musical events. **It is strongly recommended, though not required, that students have prior knowledge in the rudiments of musicianship.**

Concert Choir (Elective).

Two consecutive trimesters: 1-2 or 2-3

1. **Do I need to audition for Concert Choir?**

- **NO!** Concert Choir is **audition-free**. Just sign up for it as you would any other elective or project.

2. **What's the Difference between Concert and Chamber Choir?**

- **Concert Choir** is a come-one, come-all, **non-auditioned class**. Provided that students can match pitch and carry a melody individually, all students are welcome to enroll in Concert Choir.
- **Chamber Choir** is a select, **auditioned** ensemble with a limited number of seats. Those electing to participate in Chamber Choir **must also participate in Concert Choir – no exceptions**. **Chamber Choristers must also participate for the entire school year.**

3. **When are CHAMBER CHOIR AUDITIONS?**

- **Current BCA students:** before the last Thursday in May. **Current 8th graders:** the first Wednesday of June.

4. **What does a BCA Chorister's class schedule/time commitment look like?**

- Concert Choir runs as an elective and as a project. It is offered during all lunches, during project time, and at the end of the day (period 9).
- Chamber Choir is a Wednesday club. For seniors who aren't on campus on Wednesdays (and athletes who can't be part of the club), rehearsals take place roughly once every three weeks, on Thursday evenings (6:30-8:30pm).
- If you join BCA Choir in Trimester 1, you are **required** to sing in the Holiday Concert (an evening during the first week of January), and in the two combined **evening** rehearsals that lead up to it.
- If you join BCA Choir in Trimester 2, you are **required** to sing in the Spring Concert (an evening at the end of April), and in the two combined **evening** rehearsals that lead up to it.
- If you join BCA Choir in Trimester 3, you are **still required** to sing in the Spring Concert and the two combined **evening** rehearsals that lead up to it. This is challenging, as you'll have less than a month to prepare your music, but I am more than happy to work with you ☺
- You can re-enroll in Concert Choir as many times as you want.

5. **Do we have choir trips, and what are they like?**

- Our past choir trips have included a performance of Mozart: Requiem at Carnegie Hall, a collaborative trip to a high school in Aarhus, Denmark, and a festival in Boston. Additionally, our students are requested to sing at and are featured locally quite often off campus; this has included the opening of New Bridge Medical Center, and at the annual Bergen County Women's History Month Event. On campus, we open athletic matches and various assemblies with our National Anthem.

6. **How will I know which ensemble I'm in?**

- All students, provided they can match pitch and carry a melody, are welcome to enroll in Concert Choir.
- **Chamber Choir invitees will be notified of their acceptances via email.**

7. **Can I Still Do Sports if I'm in Choir?**

- Of course you can. For Concert Choir, lunchtime rehearsals and Wednesday projects allow you to enroll in Concert Choir and still keep open your elective hour to play on a sports team. If you're accepted into Chamber Choir, athletes and 12th graders have special Thursday evening rehearsals, where instead of attending Chamber Choir every Wednesday afternoon, they attend a Thursday evening rehearsal once every three weeks.

Digital Keyboarding – (AVPA_M Core, also an elective).

Full Year (core) or Trimesters 1, 2, and/or 3 (elective)

Digital Keyboarding is an open-ended course designed to fit the individual needs of the student. Note: For AVPA_M students, this course is a three-trimester requirement. Beginner concepts, or for the advanced student, keyboard harmony (non-traditional clef reading, transposition, harmonization, and fundamentals of improvisation) are the main objectives. Typical class involves a three-to-five-minute session per student. Typical lessons are in two parts: performance of previous lesson's assignment (with corrections as needed), and the new assignment. In addition, students are introduced to the synthesizer and MIDI software. Instead of listening to the piano sound bank in the synthesizer, students learn to access various keyboard sound files from "Finale" software, for example, a Steinway grand in an empty concert hall. This is in preparation for their future studies in Music Theory and "Electronic Music Synthesis."

Electronic Music Synthesis – (AVPA_M Core, also an elective).

Trimesters 2-3

Electronic Music Synthesis is an applied music course involving fundamentals of MIDI and proceeding through more advanced concepts based on the general skill level of the students registered for the course. That is, it will be designed to fit the individual needs of the students to whatever extent that is possible. Hands-on practice and the production of an original composition using the software MIDI program of *Finale* is the main objective of the course. The first three to four sessions involve an instructor-based presentation of the software, its capabilities, and the various methods and skills the student will be expected to develop over the course of the course. The remaining weeks will involve a hands-on environment with only sparse teacher intervention to answer questions or to solve problems with hardware, etc.

Music & Society – (AVPA_M Core, also an elective)

Full Year (core), Semester 1 and/or 2 (elective)

What happens in the world contributes to the creation of music, and music is often reflective of the world out of which it was born. This class examines mainstream and alternative music from the ancient world through today, and discusses what sparked its creation.