

Lafayette choir

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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 this next school year. Please take the time to read all of the information below so that you understand the demands of the course. After you have read this, please send me an email to acknowledge that you have received the information – ryan.marsh@fayette.kyschools.us. Please feel free to contact me via the email address or phone number above if you have any questions or problems. You will be expected to take a diagnostic exam on the first day of classes. Please use the information in this letter to help you prepare.

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 typically costs around \$80. Taking the exam is required.

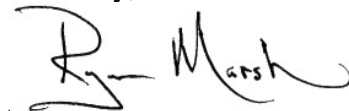
Summer Preparation As with many Advanced Placement courses, we are providing a summer preparation list. We have much content to cover during the year including extensive aural training therefore students are expected to do preparatory work prior to the first day of class. Since most of the students enrolled 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 require some summer study from you, even if you have prior music theory background. Please review, and work to understand this material. Also there are activity pages to complete and bring to class with you on the first day.

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. Parents, please encourage your students to not neglect this work! DO NOT wait until the day before to look at this. There is a lot of information to cover. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or for any help you may need.

Remember to send Mr. Marsh an email to acknowledge this letter: ryan.marsh@fayette.kyschools.us

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.

Theory Summer Work Website

For your primary source, you should consult John Steffa's Music Theory Site. This website was designed for use as an online course. 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.

Download and print the accompanying answer packet for the following chapters

(if it is not already attached to this packet)

<http://www.lafayettechoir.org/uploads/forms/APTheorySummerWorkAnswerSheet.pdf>

Go to: <http://john.steffa.net/IntroToTheory/introduction/ChapterIndex.html>

The Chapters you should complete are listed below:

- Ch. 1 - Musical Symbols [Answer Pages 11&12 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 2 - Note and Rest Values [Answer Pages 9&10 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 3 - Rhythm (you do not have to know the counting system on page 3)
[Answer Pages 6-11 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 4 - Meter Signatures (you do not have to know the counting system, pp. 4-5)
[Answer Pages 12-19 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 7 - Major Scales [Answer Pages 7-19 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 8 - Minor Scales [Answer Pages 11&12 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
- Ch. 9 - Key Signatures [Answer Pages 13-15 on the attached answer sheet.](#)
(you do not need to do pages 16-26)
- Ch. 10 Triads (Pg 1-9) [Answer Pages 8&9 on the attached answer sheet.](#)

YOU MUST Bring your completed answer packet
to class with you on the first day.

Supplemental Practice:

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/students/aptheory

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.

Be thorough in your preparation. This looks like an enormous task, but much of it will go quickly, and you probably already know some of it from the music classes/lessons you have had.

**YOU MUST Bring your completed answer packet
to class with you on the first day.**