



The City College of New York

Music 13100: Music Theory Fundamentals, Section B

*This syllabus is subject to change.
Students will receive a new version of the syllabus if any changes are made.*

Instructor: Erin Johnston
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Hours

Online via Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30am–10:45am
Additional Office Hours: Zoom or phone call, by appointment

Zoom link: <https://ccny.zoom.us/j/84313687897>

Required Materials

1. *The Musician's Guide to Fundamentals (3rd edition)*, by Jane Piper Clendinning, Elizabeth West Marvin, and Joel Phillips. You must purchase either the virtual textbook or a new physical copy that includes a new access code to the online digital content. **Do NOT purchase a used or old edition.**
2. **Access to Dropbox (the free version is fine).** I will upload videos to Dropbox most weeks, which you will need to access as part of your homework assignments. I will send/post links to these videos when they are available.
3. **Access to “Know It? InQuizitive Activities” and “Show It! Workbook Exercises.”** All of your assignments and quizzes (i.e., all of your grades) come from this digital content connected to your textbook. A registration code from a new textbook is required to access this content.
4. **Access to Blackboard.** In order for your grades from the InQuizitive Activities and Workbook Exercises to be counted toward your grade, you will need to click on the links that will become available on Blackboard throughout the semester.

Course Objectives

This course teaches students to read music and should generally be taken concurrently with other fundamentals courses (guitar, piano, singing, aural skills, etc.). By the end of the course the student will be able to:

- a. read notes fluently in treble and bass clefs
- b. identify all major and minor keys from their key signatures
- c. construct and sing all major and minor scales
- d. identify, write, and sing intervals
- e. identify and write triads and dominant seventh chords
- f. read, write, and perform basic rhythmic patterns in various meters

Grading

Your grade depends solely on your individual performance. You will not be evaluated against your colleagues. The following will improve your grade: meeting deadlines, scholarly effort, and demonstrating curiosity and interest in the course material. *The instructor reserves the right to alter any grade based on class conduct, and reserves the right to fail any student for consistent class disruption; they will be issued one warning and upon later infraction will be failed. The classroom is a positive, supportive, and inclusive learning environment for all students.*

Your grade is based on your completion of and performance on 36 Show It! Workbook Exercises and 8 Know It? InQuizitive Activities. There is no midterm or final exam. Grades are weighted as follows:

KnowIt? InQuizitive Activities: 28% (8 at 3.5% each)
Show It! Workbook Activities: 72% (36 at 2% each)



NOTE: You can retake Workbook Exercises for a better grade as many times as you'd like before the due date, and a lower grade will never take the place of a previous higher grade. However, keep in mind that our Wednesday Workbook Exercises must be completed within a given hour.

Class Policies and Procedures

Please read the CUNY Policy on Academic Integrity, which may be downloaded from the College's home page. Any violations of academic integrity will be handled according to these guidelines.

Assignment and Quiz Procedures

Your assignments for a given week will look more or less as follows:

- I will post a video to Dropbox for each chapter (sometimes two per chapter) that addresses the primary goals of *the following week's lessons*. These videos will vary in length and detail depending on the nature of a given topic, but you should expect most to be around 30–40 minutes long. Watching these videos is mandatory. I will post these videos by Thursday evening of the preceding week, and will link to the video on Blackboard.
- **Monday:** Complete Workbook Exercises assigned **on Mondays** by 11:59PM **that Monday evening**. The links for these exercises will become available Monday morning the day they are due.
- **Wednesday:** Complete Workbook Exercises assigned on Wednesdays **ONLY between 9:45AM – 10:45AM** on the listed Wednesday. The link for these exercises will only be available starting at 9:45 on Wednesdays and will only be available until 10:45am.
 - The time constraint here is intentional. Think of Wednesdays' Workbook Exercises as quizzes. As such, you will not have as much time to retake these exercises as you do the Monday exercises.
- **Friday:** Complete any assigned InQuizitive Activity by 11:59PM on the Friday listed. The links for these activities will become available Friday morning the day they are due.

****Note:** I have set up Blackboard so that the links to these activities will only become available the day/time they are intended to be completed. In other words, you will not be able to skip ahead—you will only be able to officially complete these assignments during the specific times I have outlined in the course schedule (posted to Blackboard). You must use the links on Blackboard in order for your grades to be sent directly to our course's online gradebook.

For extra practice, feel free to use the exercises provided in the textbook, or the exercise customizer found at this link: <https://www.musictheory.net/exercises/customize>.

Class Policies

1. **Attendance to our Zoom class meetings is optional** (besides the first day of class), and there is no attendance policy for this course.
2. I will post videos to Dropbox that address the primary goals of the following week's lessons. These videos will vary in length and detail depending on the nature of a given topic, but you should expect most to be around 30–40 minutes long. **Watching these videos is mandatory.**
3. Monday class meetings will focus on discussion, addressing questions, clarifying concepts, and practicing exercises. These meetings are meant to be collaborative and discussion-based.
4. Wednesday class meetings will be no more than fifteen minutes, with the rest of the class time (9:45- 10:45) devoted to your weekly quiz.

If you plan to be muted, to not participate in discussion, do not show up to our meetings. Remember that attendance is optional, and you will never be penalized for not attending class sessions. If there are issues you would rather discuss with me privately, I am more than happy to meet with you any time that works for both of us. **Note:** With this freedom of attendance comes greater personal responsibility. I will not reach out to alert you or remind you about missed assignments, nor will I remind you about upcoming assignments.



Course Overview

We will focus on topics presented in Chapters 1 – 9 of your textbook, and move through the text and exercises in sequence. I have posted on Blackboard a document with a detailed **course schedule** and list of assignments. **Please refer to this document often.**

PLEASE NOTE: It is almost impossible to “cram” these skills, and it is actually impossible to learn some of these concepts independently. For example, one cannot identify a major triad without being able to identify the interval of a major third, and one cannot identify a major third without being able to distinguish between thirds and seconds, and one cannot do that without being able to quickly identify pitches on a music staff. If one neglects any of these core concepts, the whole structure will fall apart. **Please keep up with your work.**

Statement of Accessibility

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a physical, psychological, medical, or learning disability or health consideration that may impact your coursework and/or require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the AccessAbility Center/Student Disability Services (disabilityservices@ccny.cuny.edu). They will work with you to determine what accommodations are necessary and appropriate. All information and documentation is confidential and every effort will be made to give you agency over disclosure of your disability status.

COVID-19

Finally, we are still in the middle of a global pandemic and some of you may find yourself in extremely challenging circumstances that may limit your ability to complete work, meet deadlines, etc. In such instances, please reach out to me and we will work together to find a solution to the problem. But remember, I cannot help you or make other arrangements if you don't let me know. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

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Tentative Schedule

(Subject to change)

W August 25 Course Introduction

Th August 26 Video 1 posted

M August 30 **Chapter 1: Workbook Exercises 1.1 and 1.2 due by 11:59pm** W September 1

Chapter 1: Workbook Exercise 1.3 and L+W (9:45–10:45am) F September 3 **Chapter 1:**

InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm M September 6 Labor day and Rosh Hashanah

observed – *no classes* W September 8 Rosh Hashanah observed – *no classes*

Th September 9 Video 2 posted

M September 13 **Chapter 2: Workbook Exercise 2.1 due by 11:59pm** W

September 15 Yom Kippur observed – *no classes*



M September 20 **Chapter 2: Workbook Exercise 2.2 due by 11:59pm** W

September 22 **Chapter 2: Workbook Exercise 2.3 (9:45–10:45am)** Th September

23 Video 3 posted

F September 24 **Chapter 2: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M September 27 **Chapter**

3: Workbook Exercises 3.1 and 3.2 due by 11:59pm W September 29 **Chapter 3:**

Workbook Exercise 3.3 (9:45–10:45am) Th September 30 Video 4 posted

F October 1 **Chapter 3: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M October 4 **Chapter 4:**

Workbook Exercises 4.1 and 4.2 due by 11:59pm W October 6 **Chapter 4: Workbook**

Exercise 4.3 (9:45–10:45am)

T October 7 Video 5 posted

F October 8 **Chapter 4: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M October 11

Columbus Day observed – *college closed*

W October 13 **No Workbook Exercises due this Wednesday* (5.1–5.3 available)* M October 18

Chapter 5: Workbook Exercises 5.1, 5.2, and 5.3 due by 11:59pm W October 20 **Chapter 5:**

Workbook Exercise 5.4 (9:45–10:45am) Th October 21 Video 6 posted

F October 22 **Chapter 5: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M October 25 **Chapter 6:**

Workbook Exercises 6.1 and 6.2 due by 11:59 W October 27 **Chapter 6: Workbook**

Exercises 6.3 and 6.4 (9:45–10:45am) Th October 28 Video 7 posted

F October 29 **Chapter 6: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M November 1

Chapter 7: Workbook Exercise 7.1 due by 11:59pm W November 3 **Chapter 7:**

Workbook Exercise 7.2 (9:45–10:45am) Th November 4 Video 8 posted

M November 8 No Workbook Exercises due

W November 10 **Chapter 7: Workbook Exercise 7.3 (9:45–10:45am)** Th



November 11 Video 9 posted

F November 12 **Chapter 7: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M November 15

Chapter 8: Workbook Exercise 8.1 due by 11:59pm W November 17 **Chapter 8:**

Workbook Exercise 8.2 (9:45–10:45am) Th November 18 Video 10 posted

M November 22 **Chapter 8: Workbook Exercise 8.3 due by 11:59pm** W

November 24 **Chapter 8: Workbook Exercise 8.4 (9:45–10:45am)** Th November

25 Video 11 posted

F November 26 **Chapter 8: InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm** M November 29

Chapter 9: Workbook Exercise 9.1 due by 11:59pm W December 1 **Chapter 9:**

Workbook Exercise 9.2 (9:45–10:45am) Th December 2 Video 12 posted

M December 6 **Chapter 9: Workbook Exercise 9.3 due by 11:59pm** W December

8 **Chapter 9: Workbook Exercise 9.4 (9:45–10:45am)** F December 10 **Chapter 9:**

InQuizitive Activity due by 11:59pm M December 13 Last day of classes