REQUIREMENTS:

1. Familiarity with music notation (treble clef notes, time values, rests, sharps/flats/ accidentals);
2. Laptop Computer (not a phone, etc.) that operates with a mouse (no pad, no stylus)
3. Ability to read and print Adobe.pdf files

13 sessions, 75 minutes/session Tentative Time: noon Thursday

Weeks of: Sept 11 18 25

Oct 2 9 16 23 30

Nov 6 13 27

Dec 5



**WEEK 1 Create a melody line**

INSTALL, TEST MuseScore software (free) <https://musescore.com>

OPEN a new MuseScore File

ENTER NOTES -- set up a measure for entering first note – e.g., a quarter note

* **Note Values** 1/16 . . . Whole note … tied notes **Rests** 1 ½ ¼ 1/8 1/16
* click the whole note rest – it goes BLUE
* click the quarter note in the NOTE panel – switches to a quarter note rest
* click N to activate Note entry
* add the note low c, add notes to complete the c major scale

PLAYBACK

* VOLUME CONTROL on the computer speaker;
* in Musescore 🡪 View 🡪 Mixer 🡪 dial the volume on the instrument(s) playing back

ERROR RECOVERY

* If you make a mistake entering a note . . . back arrow works like UNDO
* Or, click the wrong note, move it to the right spot
* If you double click you often end up in a different mode of interaction – get out of that mode by clicking once anywhere else on the score
* ESC escape key gets out of most impasses as well
* Delete a wrong note by clicking on the note and then hitting DELETE
* UNDO a mistake with the UNDO arrow
* never overwrite a file until you know how to undo changes
* HELP command takes you to online handbook

FILE SAVING Musescore source files have the extension .mscz

* Save your work early and often, Hit FILE 🡪 SAVE AS
* The first time you save a file name it something you will recognize, do not take the MuseScore default
* Save all mscz files in the same Musescore directory

PRINTING

* Hit the PRINTER icon and select your installed printer
* MuseScore doesn't print anything in light blue
* MuseScore will print whatever else is on the screen

**WEEK 2 -- Transcribe a simple score**

PALETTE DISPLAY

* You want the palettes locked on the left of the screen
* At the bottom of the palette list is an option for Basic/Advanced 🡪 choose advanced

TITLE

TIME SIGNATURE 4/4 ‘3/4 2/4 3/8 6/8 12/8

ADD MEASURES -- INSERT/APPEND

BARLINES, REPEAT SIGNS (VOLTA), 1st and 2nd endings

ACCIDENTALS Sharps/flats -- up/down arrow, menu # b ## bb natural

TIED Notes vs. SLURRED Notes

TEMPO CONTROL open the TEMPO palette 🡪 left click on the note/rest where the tempo begins 🡪 double left click on the quarter/eighth/etc. tempo = 80 🡪 overwrite to desired tempo

* existing tempo marker 🡪 left click on the tempo marker 🡪 overwrite

CHORD NAMES space bar for chord entry/changes

* melody lines with chords = a Lead Sheet = type of score used by rock/pop/jazz musicians
* Spreading Out Whole Notes For The Chord Changes

MAKE THE SHEET PRESENTABLE -- Breaks & Spacers -- Four measures to a line

SHORT MEASURES . . . e.g. 1,2,3-beat measures in a 4/4 song -- uptake/ending

* better to handle this with uptake measure, and multiple endings

TRANSPOSE to accommodate needs of singers or instrumentalists

* NOTES 🡪 TRANSPOSE 🡪 BY KEY 🡪 UP 🡪 G Major
* Not the same as changing the key signature

USING HELP 🡪 online handbook

**WEEK 3 -- More complex scores -- chords, harmonies**

TRIPLETS

ADD TEXT 🡪 LYRICS or ctrl L -- spacebar dash double underscore

SCORE WITH TWO STAFFS …

* Piano two clefs
* Bass Clef notes
* Guitar Chords for playback (not just names)
* Second Instrument -- rhythm pattern, call & response, bass line
* SATB choir/vocal scores

CHOOSE/EDIT INSTRUMENTAL VOICES

* Choose an instrument, Separate Volume Control
* careful with Guitar Voice

SHORTCUTS to transcription

* COPY/PASTE NOTES to reduce entering time --exact repetitions, rhythmic repetitions
* COPY MELODY BUT NOT LYRICS F6
* TRANSPOSE Diatonically
* COPY to Bass clef
* TRANSPOSE by Interval -- up octave

**WEEK 4 Complex scoring challenges**

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

TRANSPOSING INSTRUMENTS – Trumpet, Clarinet

ARTICULATIONS, ORNAMENTS

staccato, Fermata, railroad tracks, arpeggio (guitar, piano), glissando (flute, violin)

grace notes

REPEATS AND JUMPS

* DS AL CODA, DS AL FINE,TAG
* Repeat previous measure

ALTER TEMPO

* Slow/Ritard, Return To Original
* Swing Time

KEY CHANGES

WITHIN A MELODY

CHANGE KEY FOR LAST VERSE

* Go to last measure, ADD 🡪 MEASURES 🡪 APPEND more than enough empty measures
* COPY the whole song except for short uptake/ending measures
  + copies chord names, which you want, and words, which you probably don’t
* PASTE the whole song starting a couple of measures after the original ending
* MANUALLY ADD/FIX the short uptake/ending measure(s), if any
* SELECT/HIGHLIGHT the new, pasted section
* NOTES 🡪 TRANSPOSE 🡪 BY KEY 🡪 UP 🡪 G Major
  + Changes key signature, transposes notes and chord names
* Clean up the transition point – uptake note, transition chord, etc.

WHAT TO DO WHEN NOTES ARE IN ONE KEY AND CHORDS ARE IN ANOTHER --

DRAWING FROM THE SCORE TO FINISH THE LEAD SHEET

* ADD INTRO measures – find a Motif
* Chord turnarounds – find a Motif

OPTIMIZING LEGIBILITY OF THE SCORE FOR MUSICIANS

* Change the Title Area
* PUT IN A PICTURE
* REHEARSAL MARKS,TEXT NOTES
* Add Page Break, Spacers
* distance between lines – general
* distance between lines -- specific

EXPORT .PDF

* Set up a file location for pdf versions of your scores. Don't default to the Musescore directory because it will mingle the mscz files with the pdf files and you will not like this in the long run. I use several pdf file locations because I have several styles/genres of music,
* Hit the PRINTER icon and select PRINT TO PDF, pick a location, it will publish to that location
* After doing this the first time, pull up the pdf file with Acrobat, make sure you can access the file, make sure you can print it. Adobe just came out with an upgrade which I HAD to install

EXPORT .MP3 for playback .WAV or .MID file for incorporation into other music software

**WEEK 5 Composing: Scales and Chords**

CHROMATIC SCALE , DIATONIC SCALE

DIATONIC HARMONY

CHORD INVERSIONS

**WEEK 6 Getting Started: I IV V and 2-step**

STABLE and UNSTABLE TONES

DIATONIC HARMONY I IV V

STABLE and UNSTABLE CHORDS

CHORDS TO HARMONIZE MELODY NOTES

STRUCTURAL BEATS, METRICAL STRESS

TWO-STEP RHYTHM . . . 4/4 TIME

PUTTING ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER:

* Strong/Weak Beats, Chords, Chord Tones, Passing Tones

**WEEK 7 Composing With I IV V chords**

TEMPO – standard tempo markers

WRITE A PROGRESSION OF I IV V CHORDS ON THE STRUCTURAL BEATS

WRITE NOTES ON THE STRUCTURAL BEATS

* Notes in chords

ADD TONES BETWEEN THE STRONG BEATS

EXPERIMENT WITH RHYTHMS IN THE MELODY

**WEEK 8 Waltz**

STRONG BEAT on 1

TIPS ON MELODY WRITING

DIFFERENT CHORD VOICINGS AFFECT THE WAY THE MELODY SOUNDS

**WEEK 9 Add Rhythm**

ADD RHYTHM (Left Hand, Guitar, Bass, Percussion) to WEEK 8 Waltz

CHORD VOICINGS – determined by melody

ADD RHYTHM to WEEK 7 2-step

Walking Bass

Arpeggios (piano, Travis guitar patterns)

**WEEK 10 6/8 Time 12/8 Time Slow Dance**

tempo measured in dotted half notes

Six beats to a measure – eighth notes -- (123 456) strong = 1,4

twelve beats to a measure – eighth notes (123 456 789 101112) strong similar to 4/4 pattern

rhythm patterns – similar to waltz

**WEEK 11 Minor Chords, Major Key**

CHOOSE KEY SIGNATURE

* Recipe For Major, Minor, Diminished Chords In A Key
* Root Position Chord Triads – Major, Minor, Diminished
* Diatonic Chords
* Nashville Numbering System

CHORDS AND MOODS

NOTES CONTAINED IN DIATONIC CHORDS

* Chromatic passing tones
* Grace notes

**WEEK 12 Reharmonizing a Melody**

DIATONIC CHORDS

* Notes Contained In Diatonic Chords

REHARMONIZE PREVIOUS HOMEWORK MELODIES, and/or others

* Add Accompaniment, Percussion Tracks

**WEEK 13 Dominant 7th V7 Tritone**

DOMINANT 7TH CHORD

* Diatonic Recipe

STABLE VS. UNSTABLE SCALE TONES

* Leading Tone
* Dissonance, Tritone,
* Harmonic Tension
* Mood