

**AP Music Theory**  
**West Virginia AP Summer Institute**  
**June 26-29, 2018**  
**University High School**  
**Morgantown, WV**

**Consultant: Dr. Robert Young McMahan,**  
Professor of Music, Coordinator of Music Theory and Composition Studies,  
The College of New Jersey

**Overview**

This course is designed for new as well as experienced AP Music Theory teachers. It will provide a review of all aspects of first-year college music theory, concentrating on its written, analytical, sight singing, ear training, and teaching skills and procedures. Participants will gain familiarity with creative teaching activities/strategies and will devise their own activities and materials for use in their classrooms. With collaborative input from the instructor and others in the class, participants new to the AP Music Theory program will also develop detailed syllabi for the course, following AP guidelines. In addition, all participants will explore assessment tools and teaching techniques to prepare students for the AP Music Theory exam. All should emerge from this course with a clear understanding of the objectives and levels of performance their students must reach to be successful in their high school AP Music Theory course.

**Class Plan**

**Tuesday, June 26, 8:00 A. M. – 4:30 P. M.:**

Personal introductions  
Overview of AP Music Theory  
Study of AP Melodic Dictation exams. (FR 1, 2 released exams)

Study of AP Multiple Choice exam, Section 1A, aural stimulus (released exams)

Study of AP Multiple Choice exam, Section 1B, visual stimulus (released exams)

Discussion of requirements for 1A, B.

*Project: Develop FR 1, 2 sample compositions, and Multiple Choice questions from sample musical excerpts*

**Wednesday, June 27, 8:00 A. M. – 4:30 P. M.:**

Study of AP Harmonic Dictation exam (FR3, 4 released exams)

Discussion of development of aural skills

Study of AP sight singing exam (S1, 2 released exams).

Discussion of AP sight singing requirements and various teaching methods

Discussion of numerical analysis, voice leading, and harmonizations of figured bass and soprano lines in light of AP exams FR 5, 6, and 7

*Project: Develop FR 3, 4 sample compositions, following all rules discussed regarding harmonic progression and voice leading*

*Project: for those new to AP Music Theory program:  
Commence developing an AP Music Theory syllabus for their school*

**Thursday, June 28, 8:00 A. M. – 4:30 P. M.:**

Further discussion of compositional rules in light of FR 5, 6, 7, as needed

Further discussion of compositional rules and syllabi and lesson plan formation, as needed.

*Project:*

*Construct figured bass, numeral, and soprano line harmonization exercises similar to FR 5, 6, and 7.*

*Continue work on syllabi, as needed*

**Friday, June 29, 8:00 A. M. – 2:30 P. M.:**

Presentation of participants' syllabi assignments

Presentation and discussion of sample lesson plans produced by participants.

Discussion of materials of music theory, both within and beyond AP Music Theory Exam. requirements.

Exploration of music theory software and online programs

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- Participants should bring USB drives to download multiple study handouts from the Consultant at the first class meeting. It would also be helpful if participants

bring their laptops to class each day as well. Participants will also need music manuscript paper and pencils with good erasers for each class.

- Graduate Credit: Those seeking graduate credit must complete an additional 15 hours. During this period, participants must create 1) a syllabus, successfully following AP Music Theory guidelines; and 2) assigned special sample lesson plans and tests for the various facets of the teaching of Music Theory, including written harmonic skills, analysis of musical scores, sight singing, and ear training. These tasks may be accomplished as extensive homework during the week of instruction and/or the period following the end of the Institute week up to at least three days (July 24) prior to the due date for final grades (July 27). All items may be emailed as attachments to [mcmahan@tcnj.edu](mailto:mcmahan@tcnj.edu).
- Participants are welcome to email the Consultant at [mcmahan@tcnj.edu](mailto:mcmahan@tcnj.edu) with any questions or other matters anytime before, during, or after the course.