Music Theory Basics to Know to Get Ready for College

and

Suggested Apps and other Resources for practice

Reading Pitches on a Staff:

- Reading in treble and bass clefs (alto clef is a bonus!)
- Goal: SPEED!!!
- To learn the theory:
  - musictheory.net
  - teoria.com: tutorial on reading music
- Apps:
  - Staff Wars (IOS and Android)
  - Flashnote Derby (IOS and Android)
  - Note Tutor (IOS and Android)
  - Note Works (IOS and Android)

Reading Pitches on a Keyboard:

- Know how to name notes on a keyboard.
- Goals: SPEED!! To be able easily play the piano (see piano skills below).
- To learn the theory:
  - teoria.com: tutorial on reading music
  - Youtube videos: search for how to read pitches on a keyboard
- Apps:
  - Note Works (IOS and Android)
  - Sight Reading Factory (computer and IOS)

Piano Skills:

- Those that play the piano (even just the basics) always do better in theory classes!
- You need to be able to play theory, aural training, and sight singing examples. This will help you to learn class skills better and more quickly, and will help you be able to practice skills away from class and prepare for tests.
- Goals: Ease while reading/playing treble and bass clef at the same time. To be able to play scales, melodies, chords, and basic progressions.
- Online piano lessons:
  - Playground sessions: rated best overall program playgroundsessions.com
  - Piano marvel: rated best value pianomarvel.com
  - Flowkey: rated best for young adults flowkey.com
- Apps to learn piano:
  - Simply Piano by Joytunes (IOS)
  - Yokee (IOS)
  - Pianist HD (Android)
  - Virtual piano trainer (Android)
Key Signatures:

- Know the order and placement of sharps and flats on the staff in treble and bass clef (alto and tenor clefs are a bonus!) Be able to draw them on a staff.
- Know key signatures for all Major and minor keys
- Goal: SPEED!!
- To learn the theory:
  - musictheory.net: also has online exercises to practice
  - musictheoryfundamentals.com

• Apps to use to practice:
  - Musition Key Signatures (IOS)
  - Music Theory Pro (IOS)
  - Tiny Cards (IOS and Android): search decks for key signatures
  - Music Theory and Practice and Ear Training Courses by Musicopoulos (IOS)

Scales:

- Be able to recognize and write Major, natural minor, harmonic minor, and melodic minor scales using accidentals and using key signatures.
- Goal: SPEED!!
- To learn the theory:
  - musictheory.net: also has online exercises to practice
  - teoria.com: also has online exercises to practice

• Apps to use to practice:
  - Music Theory Pro (IOS)
  - Music Theory and Practice and Ear Training Courses by Musicopoulos (IOS)
  - Music Theory Helper (Android)

Triads:

- Be able to identify and write Major, minor, diminished and augmented triads.
- Goal: SPEED!!
- To learn the theory:
  - musictheory.net: also has online exercises to practice
  - teoria.com: also has online exercises to practice

• Apps to use to practice:
  - Music Theory Pro (IOS)
  - Music Theory and Practice and Ear Training Courses by Musicopoulos (IOS)
  - Music Theory Helper (Android)
Rhythm and Meter:

- **Meter:**
  - Know how simple and compound meters work.
  - Be able to add a meter signature to any musical example.
  - Know how to beam the rhythms in an example to reflect the meter that it is in.

- **Rhythm:**
  - Know how rhythmic values work in simple and compound meters.
  - Be able to take apart or combine and count rhythms according to their mathematical values.
  - Be able to accurately draw rhythmic figures (including notation of rests, beams, and flag, and stem directions) and know where they go on the staff.
  - Understand rests, dots, and ties.
  - Rhythmic counting syllables used at UNI: see back page

- **To learn the theory:**
  - musictheory.net

- **Apps to use to practice:**
  - Rhythm Swing (IOS)
  - Rhythm Cat (IOS)
  - Rhythm Lab (IOS ipod)
  - Rhythm Sight Reading Trainer (IOS)
  - Musition Rhythm apps (IOS)
  - Rhythm Calculator (IOS)
  - Sight Reading Factory (computer and IOS)
  - Rhythm Tap (Android)
  - Music Rhythm Master (Android)
  - Rhythm teacher: music beats (Android)
  - Music Theory Helper (Android)
  - Theta Music Trainer (IOS and Android)

Aural Training

- **Goals:** ID intervals, scales (Major, natural minor, harmonic minor, melodic minor), identify triad qualities (Major, minor, augmented and diminished) (bonus skills to learn: melodic, rhythmic, and harmonic dictation)

- **Apps to use to practice:**
  - Music Theory and Practice and Ear Training Courses by Musicopoulos (IOS)
  - Ear Beater (IOS)
  - Music Theory Pro (IOS)
  - Theta Music Trainer (IOS and Android)
  - Music Theory Helper (Android)
  - Functional Ear Trainer (Android)