



Exploring Music II

Course Summary:

Designed for students in grades 6–8, this course reviews and expands fundamental musicianship skills approached from a Western-Classical style, while aligning to the National Core Arts Standards. The student will review and expand basic skills and concepts of rhythm and notation that were introduced in Exploring Music I. The student will use classic repertoire to analyze compositional style and improve listening, notation, analysis, performance, and improvisation skills. With audio, visual, and interactive technologies, the course provides a unique and advanced learning experience. Exploring Music I is a prerequisite for this course.

Course Outline

1. Cool Pulsations

1. Get Started

- Examine ways in which music impacts your life
- Demonstrate an understanding of the elements that make up music
- Examine the various tools used to read, write, improvise, and perform music

2. Rhythm—It’s Everywhere!

- Identify a variety of rhythmic patterns using whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, dotted notes, and corresponding rests
- Compose a variety of rhythmic patterns using whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, dotted notes, triplets, and corresponding rests
- Play and sing a variety of rhythmic patterns using whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, eighth notes, sixteenth notes, dotted notes, triplets, and corresponding rests
- Read and notate rhythmic patterns, including patterns with sixteenth notes, dotted notes, and rests
- Read, count, and perform a variety of rhythms, using duple, triple, and quadruple meters

3. Dots and Ties

- Identify the use of ties and dotted rhythms in select repertoire
- Read, write, and perform music using ties, dotted rhythms, and syncopation

4. Meter—Make It Simple!

- Distinguish between simple and compound meter
- Compose and perform a variety of rhythmic patterns in a variety of meters

5. Say It This Way . . .

- Identify a variety of tempo in music
- Demonstrate an understanding of tempo vocabulary
- Read and perform tempo variations in music

6. Speed It Up, Slow It Down
 - Identify ways in which tempo can change in a piece of music or within a given phrase of music
 - Identify ways in which dynamics can change in a piece of music or within a given phrase of music
 - Demonstrate tempo variations in performance
 - Demonstrate dynamic variations in performance
7. Move to the Rhythm!
 - Use dance and body percussion to explore rhythms in music
 - Use movement to show different styles of music
 - Use choreographed movements to express music's rhythms
8. Cool Pulsations Unit Review
 - Review all previous concepts and objectives for Unit 1
9. Cool Pulsations Unit Test

2. **Absolute-ly**

1. Grand Staff
 - Review pitch fundamentals, including clefs and note names on the grand staff
 - Demonstrate reading pitches on the grand staff
2. Step Ladder
 - Review pitch fundamentals, including clefs and note names on the grand staff
 - Define half and whole step as it relates to piano keys
 - Aurally and visually determine the differences between whole and half steps
3. Major in This!
 - Identify the major scale pattern of whole steps and half steps
 - Construct major scales in various keys
 - Review the solfège system and syllables
 - Apply solfège syllables to the major scale
4. Minor Steps
 - Review the construction of a major scale
 - Review the minor scale pattern of half steps and whole steps
 - Differentiate between major and minor scales
 - Differentiate between the three forms of the minor scale
 - Describe a parallel minor scale and how it relates to the major scale
5. Find the Key
 - Differentiate and identify major and minor key signatures
 - Analyze key signatures in repertoire
6. Intervals
 - Identify intervals aurally and visually
 - Construct intervals above a given note
 - Analyze intervals in the melodies of course repertoire
7. Triads
 - Construct triads on each scale degree
 - Explain the importance of the tonic and dominant triads
 - Analyze selected triads in the course repertoire
8. Harmony
 - Add harmony to support a melody
 - Sing or play music written in two or three parts

9. Composition Portfolio
 - Compose an original melody with harmony
10. Absolute-ly Unit Review
 - Evaluate knowledge of musical concepts covered in this unit
11. Absolute-ly Unit Test

3. Stylistic Imprints

1. A Historical Journey
 - Explain the importance of studying music from a historical perspective
 - Examine how history has influenced the evolution of music over time
 - Understand the general characteristics and dates of Western classical style periods
2. Life and Times in the Middle Ages
 - Identify important musical styles and characteristics of music from the Medieval style period
 - Explain sociocultural practices that influenced the music in the Middle Ages
3. The Rebirth
 - Analyze music from the Renaissance style period
 - Identify important musical styles and characteristics of music from the Renaissance style period
 - Identify important composers from the Renaissance style period
4. Baroque Brilliance
 - Recognize sociocultural factors that influenced music from the Baroque style period
 - Identify important musical styles and characteristics of music from the Baroque style period
 - Identify important composers from the Baroque style period
5. Copy Me!
 - Identify fugal style and explain a fugue's main parts
 - Recognize parts of a fugue aurally
 - Learn important biographical information about Johann Sebastian Bach
 - Identify the harpsichord as an important Baroque keyboard instrument
6. It's Classic!
 - Recognize sociocultural factors that influenced music from the Classical style period
 - Describe the transitional elements from the Baroque style to Classical style
 - Identify important musical styles and characteristics of music from the Classical style period
7. The First Viennese School
 - Identify important composers from the Classical style period
 - Recognize the compositional styles of Franz Joseph Haydn, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Ludwig van Beethoven
 - Analyze works composed in the Classical period by different composers
8. Bold Expressions
 - Recognize sociocultural factors that influenced music from the Romantic style period
 - Describe the transitional elements from the Classical style to Romantic style
 - Identify important characteristics of music from the Romantic style period
 - Identify important composers from the Romantic style period
9. Impress Me
 - Identify important musical characteristics from the Impressionist style period
 - Identify important composers who wrote in the Impressionist style period

- Compose a melody using the whole-tone scale
10. A New Sound
 - Identify characteristics of styles from the Modern period
 - Identify important composers from the Modern period, including some American composers
 - Describe elements of ragtime style and its use in social settings
 - Apply digital citizenship skills to musical contexts
 - Compare and contrast careers in music
 - Identify ways technology is used to create and edit music
 11. Stylistic Imprints Unit Review
 - Review all previous concepts and objectives for Unit 3
 12. Stylistic Imprints Unit Test
 - Identify and describe key words and concepts presented in Unit 3
 - Evaluate students' ability to apply skills and concepts presented in Unit 3
 - Evaluate students' ability to apply skills and concepts presented in Unit 3

4. Architecturally Sound

1. Organize Your Music
 - Memorize intervals visually and aurally
2. Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No. 5
 - Examine Johann Sebastian Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 in D Major, BWV 1050, as a representative work of its historical period, identifying key elements that make it so
 - Identify the key rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements of Bach's Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 and investigate their use as organizing principles
3. Mozart: The Magic Flute I
 - Examine Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's The Magic Flute as a representative work of its historical period, identifying key elements that make it so
 - Identify the key, rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements of The Magic Flute and investigate their use as organizing principles
4. Mozart: The Magic Flute II
 - Examine Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's The Magic Flute as a representative work of its historical period, identifying key elements that make it so
 - Identify the key rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements of The Magic Flute and investigate their use as organizing principles
5. Schubert: Piano Trio No. 1
 - Examine Franz Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 in B-flat Major, op. 99, D. 898, as a representative work of its historical period, identifying key elements that make it so
 - Identify the key rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements of Schubert's Piano Trio No. 1 and investigate their use as organizing principles
6. Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2
 - Examine Johannes Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat Major, op. 83, as a representative work of its historical period, identifying key elements that make it so
 - Identify the key rhythmic, melodic, and harmonic elements of Brahms's Piano Concerto No. 2 and investigate their use as organizing principles
7. Composition and Analysis Portfolio
 - Compose an original piece of music
 - Provide an analysis of musical elements in original composition
8. Architecturally Sound Unit Review

- Review all previous concepts and objectives for Unit 4
9. Architecturally Sound Unit Test