Designing Effective and Engaging Music Fundamentals Resources for Online Teaching
Texas Society for Music Theory Annual Conference Pedagogy Session
March 6, 2021
Dr. Rachel Mann & Dr. Katrina Roush
rachel.mann@utrgv.edu   katrina.roush@utrgv.edu
University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

<u>Music Theory Fundamentals Tech Resources</u>

This list includes those tech resources that focus primarily on (or dedicate a significant portion to) teaching, drilling, and gamifying music theory fundamentals. Those resources that assume prior fundamentals knowledge are not included here, nor are links to full-length, ebooks offered for sale on unrelated webpages. Resources are listed in alphabetical order by genre. (*Updated: February 26, 2021)*

- (free) – some or all resources are available for free
- ($) – most or all resources are available for purchase

Theory Websites
Some sites require plugins that may not work on all platforms.
- www.8notes.com/theory/ – fundamentals to intermediate tutorials (free)
- www.chordmaps.com – fundamentals, diatonic, and chromatic harmonies (free; links to $ ebook)
- cnx.org/content/m10865/latest/ – lessons and exercises on circle-of-fifths and key signatures. (free)
- www.dolmetsch.com/introduction.htm – Music theory outline and links; quite complete lesson series, fundamentals to intermediate (free)
- https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1l12zuArNdFUKpSL9ZgGBY3pTY7SlgqzN?usp =sharing – Ben Geyer's PDF textbook and workbook *Music Theory in Mind and Culture* that begin with fundamentals topics (free)
- www.easymusictheory.com – Gary Ewer's Easy Music Theory; exercises and 25 video lessons ($)
- flashnotederby.com/note-naming-video-lessons/ – videos for learning notes on a staff (free)
- happynote.com/music/ – lessons and games for learning notes on treble and bass clefs (free; requires plugins)
- videos.harmonia.illiacsoftware.com/– two videos on spelling intervals at the bottom of the page (free videos)
- www.howmusicworks.org/ – lessons with sound for music fundamentals. (free)
- itworksintheory.com – sequential and comprehensive approach to teaching music theory in the performance classroom ($)
- joeraciti.com/musictheoryfordummy/ – basic lessons for music fundamentals and beyond (free; more content for $)
- www.musictechteacher.com – mostly fundamentals and worksheets (many free resources)

- musictheory.alcorn.edu/ – fundamentals through chords in inversion; aural and visual. (free; requires plugins)
- www.music-theory.com/ – Music Theory OnLine: subscription; independent study of fundamentals ($; some resources are available for free)
- www.musictheory.org.uk/ – interactive; checks basic music fundamentals (free)
- https://musictheorymaterials.utk.edu/handouts-videos-fundamentals/ – handouts for basic fundamentals topics (free)
- www.musictheoryminute.com/ – short explanations of fundamentals topics from intervals to chords, voice motion types, etc.; illustrated with a keyboard (free)
- www.musictoolsforpeople.com –contains chord maps (free trial, for Windows machines)
- neilhawes.com/sstheory/theory.htm – Basic Music Theory on the World Wide Web: fundamentals lessons (free)
- www.oneminutemusiclesson.com/lessons – lessons for fundamentals (free)
- http://openmusictheory.com/ - open access music theory textbook that includes a fundamentals section (the 2nd edition, still in process, can be accessed at https://viva.pressbooks.pub/openmusictheory/front-matter/introduction/) (free)
- www.pedaplus.com/notegames/ – games for pitch, scale degrees, key signatures, and intervals (free)
- www.philrees.co.uk/links/theory.htm – annotated listing of theory sites, with links. (free)
- www.sfcmtheory.com/analysis_lectures/analysis_lectures.htm – notes and score/audio examples on intermediate topics: motives, phrases, periods, forms; site also contains some ear training software (free; some material is not available to all users)
- www.stephenandrewtaylor.net/worksheets/ – interactive exercises for intervals, triads, and chromatic chords (free)
- https://tobyrush.com/theorywiki – collaborative wiki with music theory resources (free)
- www.treblis.com/Notation/Music.htm – lessons/information on many fundamental notation symbols (free)

Aural Skills Websites
- davesmey.com/mus181/webdictation/webdictation.htm – another great site for aural skills study; click on his links under "Resources" and "Links" for theory training and more aural skills help (free)
- www.eartrainingpractice.com – diatonic and chromatic melodies for dictation (free)
- ear-training.software.informer.com/ – website rating ear training software; updated 2021 (free)
- www.good-ear.com/ – site for aural skills drills; there are comprehensive series of exercises on interval recognition for all learning levels; good drills on chords, scales and harmonic progressions (free)
- www.hitsquad.com/smm/win95/EAR_TRAINING/ – website that lists/rates ear training software (free)
- www.listen-sing.com – links to online aural skills & videos for singing harmonies (free; more exercises available for $ in SmartMusic)
- www.musicalmind.org – online interval exercises; short, long, diatonic and atonal; melodic/harmonic intervals (free)
- www.ossmann.com/bigears/ – this site drills intervals at various levels of difficulty; user-

friendly site (free; requires plugin)
- www.tonedear.com – the ear-training-only, student version of www.tonesavvy.com (free)
- www.wmich.edu/mus-theo/etg/et_guide.html – Aural Comprehension Guide (free)

Theory & Aural Skills (combined) Websites
- www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/johnito/music_theory/index.html – John Paul Ito's Aural Idiom Drill; links to fundamentals worksheets at the bottom of the page (free)
- www.ars-nova.com/theory.html – complete aural/written skills, fundamentals to advanced (free)
- www.gmajormusictheory.org/Fundamentals/workbooks.html – fundamentals tutorials and exercises with downloadable workbooks, by a long-time AP Music Theory instructor. (free)
- learnmusictheory.net – ebook covering diatonic & chromatic harmony, jazz theory, form, and post-tonal concepts as well as some sight singing exercises (free; download ebook for $)
- www.musictheory.net/ – site features drills for both rudiments and aural skills. Includes notation, scales, intervals, chords, note names, key signatures in the rudiments section; aural skills include intervals, scales, & chord identification; contains a chord calculator, staff paper template & matrix generator (free)
- www.people.vcu.edu/~bhammel/theory/ – find links to theory and aural skills websites and aural skills worksheets and resources (free)
- www.sonicfit.com – fundamentals lessons and exercises (free); a more recent, subscription-based site may be found at mymusicianship.com/2020_01_01/index.php ($)
- www.teoria.com/en/tutorials/ – comprehensive coverage of music rudiments in tutorials and drills; covers all aspects and includes sound-on options for development of aural skills (choose from moveable and fixed-do); also includes extensive bibliography on rudiments. (free; requires plugin)
- tonesavvy.com/emusictheory/ – a combined website of www.emusictheory.com/ (theory) and www.tonedear.com (aural skills); drill on a variety of fundamentals. "Chord functions" will provide chord spelling practice, but the IV-V-I that establishes the key practice uses poor voice leading. (some free exercises; for more, subscribe for $)
- trainer.thetamusic.com/ – mostly diatonic (and some chromatic) ear training exercises and theory lessons (free for fundamentals levels 1-3)
- https://tinyurl.com/musictheoryresources – crowdsourced pedagogical resources and videos for a wide range of music theory and aural skills topics (mostly free, some are $)
- williamwieland.midcoip.net/ – miscellaneous worksheets and explanations of fundamentals; pointers to musical examples of various features; dictation, rhythm, harmony, part-writing and form; tons of resource links (free)
- www.wmich.edu/mus-history/TheoryHelp/TheoryHelp.html – various resources, including downloadable rhythm dictation trainer (free)
- https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1AU9mhvKQZ9LFiat0S78ZA/videos - Dr. C's Music Theory Land YouTube channel including fundamentals topics, both theory and aural skills (free)

- https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLukq47DrMXzwBSgMJ-lRE6Fet9cveUR61 – Dr. Katrina Roush's complete fundamentals videos (theory and some aural skills) used in her course at UTRGV (free)

Repertoire/Score Resources & General Music Websites
Not music theory or aural skills specific, but excellent resources for finding repertoire for score study and ear training; also includes links to numerous staff paper templates as well as an excellent general music history resource
- cpdl.org/ – Choral Public Domain Library (free)
- digital.wwnorton.com/hwm10 – *The Norton History of Western Music*; good music history resource; (free outlines)
- imslp.org – International Music Score Library Project; public domain music scores (free)
- lieder.net/ – archive of texts and translations of art songs and choral works (free)
- www.musicnotes.com – popular sheet music for ($); some (free) music is available including staff paper templates (look under "More" tab)
- www.musictheoryexamples.com – collection of scores and sound files categorized by music theory topic (free)
- musictheoryexamplesbywomen.com – collection of scores and sound files categorized by music theory topic (free)
- www.mutopiaproject.org/ – scores are all set using lilypond (free)
- https://tinyurl.com/mtpedBIPOC – collection of musical examples by composers of color, categorized by music theory topic (free)
- people.virginia.edu/~pdr4h/musicpaper/ – good staff paper resource; music paper downloads (free)

Music & Music Theory Exam-Specific Websites
These websites provide information for the AP Music Theory course and exam as well as the TExES, the state exam for teacher certification
- AP Music Theory Course Page: apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses/ap-music-theory?course=ap-music-theory –links to course information, sample exams, teaching/study resources, articles; find the Course Description, Teachers' Guide, sample syllabi, free response questions from previous AP exams, an electronic discussion group for AP Music Theory teachers, and many other resources. Available from the College Board store: released exams, the AP Vertical Teams Guide, and other resources.
- TMEA's TExES Music Exam Page: www.tmea.org/divisions-regions/college/texes-review –links to exam content, topics, and format information, bibliographic resource lists, and sample exam questions

Music Theory & Aural Skills Software & Web Apps
$ unless otherwise specified
- www.artusimusic.com/ – web app for fundamentals, 4-voice harmony, counterpoint, and more
- www.breezinthrutheory.com – subscription; covers fundamentals to chromatic harmony, transposition, & form
- www.gnu.org/software/solfege/ – downloadable program designed to help you learn

solfège and aural skills concepts (free)
- harmonia.illiacsoftware.com – Harmonia: desktop/tablet/web app with an analysis engine that analyzes and grades harmonic analysis and voice leading to provide instant feedback. (free app; student subscription $ to access instructor content; free trial)
- www.macgamut.com – complete aural/written skills, fundamentals to advanced; provides a flexible, graded ear-training and fundamentals learning environment for serious music students from novices to the most advanced; now under Artusi
- www.macgamut.com/products/mfun/ - complete fundamentals course in an interactive app
- www.miles.be – fundamentals ear trainer (free)
- www.noteflight.com/learn – Noteflight Learn: teacher-generated exercises and assessment tools for theory and composition (free trial; $ subscription)
- picardylearning.com/ – Picardy: theory and ear training app
- www.rhythmbee.com – Rhythm Bee: computer animations that help in fundamentals
- www.risingsoftware.com/ – Auralia (ear training) and Musition (theory); complete aural/written skills, fundamentals to advanced
- www.smartmusic.com/classic/ – Smart Music: sight singing assessments and ear training skill building

Notation Software
Links for free and $ popular, (relatively) user-friendly music notation software; includes web-based and app-based programs to meet all students' needs
- Finale (www.finalemusic.com/) – desktop app (academic pricing: student/educators)
- Sibelius (www.avid.com/sibelius) – desktop app (academic subscription: monthly/perpetual license)
- Musescore (musescore.org/en) – desktop app (free)
- Noteability for Mac – notation program (free)
- Noteflight (www.noteflight.com/) – web app (free)
- Notion (www.presonus.com/products/Notion-for-iOS) – iOS app ($)

Tablet/Phone Apps
There are so many apps available for Android and iOS devices. Search in the Apple and Google Play store for any of the following keywords:
- music theory; music fundamentals; ear training; aural skills; sight reading; note learning; intervals; music scales; chords; etc.