

MUSIC THEORY FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNER

Introduction:

What is Music

A collection of sounds that are very pleasant to ear.

Music Theory Fundamentals:

What is a Sound: sound can be defined as: mechanical pressure waves that travel through a physical medium, like air or water. Sound has its own unique properties, such as: frequency, speed, amplitude, duration, etc.

Pitch: pitch is a specific frequency of sound produced by a vibrating object, such as a guitar string. Us humans have the ability to hear a wide range of sound frequencies ranging from 20 Hz to 20 000 Hz (or 20 kHz) on average, although this range reduces as we age (and it is nothing compared to some animals).

Note: A note, by the way, is simply a named specific pitch with a particular duration, loudness and quality. The notes are named with an alphabet letter ranging from A to G (we'll get to them in a bit).

Timbre: Two sounds can have different rhythmic values and can sound different overall but if they have the same pitch, they will still be the same note. If two sounds that are the same note sound different, then it is said that these two sounds have different timbres. A timbre is like a sound color or sound quality that comes from different instruments.

Tone: tone is synonymous with a note, usually when we talk about playing different tones; and it is used as a name for a particular music interval. Musical tone is also considered as a steady sound with properties like a regular note, only that it is a single (pure) frequency that can only be produced digitally.

The 12 notes in Western music are as follows:

A, A# or Bb, B, C, C# or Db, D, D# or Eb, E, F, F# or Gb, G, G# or Ab

Here are those notes laid out on a piano keyboard:

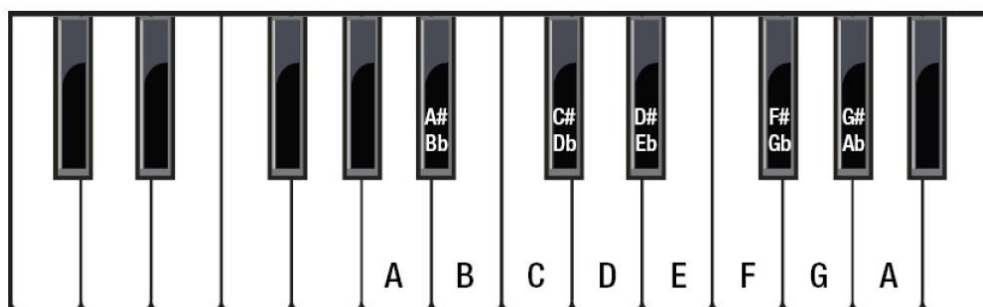


Figure 1: Notes in one octave on piano

Mastering Scales and Modes:

What is a Scale? A set of musical notes ordered by fundamental frequency or pitch in ascending or descending order.

Types of Scales:

1. Chromatic Scale
2. Diatonic Scale
3. Pentatonic Scale

Mastering the Chords:

Chord: In music, three or more single pitches heard simultaneously.

The Building Blocks of Music — Harmony, Melody and Rhythm

We say that music consists of three things:

1. Harmony
2. Melody
3. Rhythm

Harmony and melody both describe the relationship between pitches (although differently) without respect to their duration, whereas rhythm describes the relationship between sounds and their durations without respect to their pitches. Harmony is what happens when we combine notes in music.

Melody is like harmony in that it describes the relationship between pitches, but it is a horizontal rather than vertical understanding. Melody is all about the way that notes act in sequence, so that the same 4 notes played in different orders have different melodic values, even if those 4 notes taken together might have the same harmonic structure.

Rhythm is the relationship, in time, between notes (or sounds in general) regardless of pitch relationships. Rhythm describes the way sounds pulse (or don't pulse), their speed and regularity. Rhythmic structures describe the way a piece moves according to a particular kind of time-based division.

Vocalization: A musical passage sung upon one vowel as an exercise to develop flexibility and control of pitch and tone; solfeggio. E.g. vocalize a sound, use your voice to make it.

Band Formation:

1. Find your Bandmates
2. Find your Sound
3. Find a place to Practice
4. Start to write Your Songs.
5. Record your Demo.

Staging:

Stage management is a process of integrating the parts to make a whole.

Instrumentation:

Making all musical instruments played alongside singers.

Shalom!

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