

**SO YOU WANT TO BE A MUSIC MAJOR:
WHAT STUDENTS AND THEIR
TEACHERS SHOULD KNOW**

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**THE MIDWEST CLINIC
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2013
3:00 PM
ROOM W186**

FUNDAMENTALS FOR PROSPECTIVE MUSIC MAJORS

Private Lessons

- ✓ Study with the best private teacher available
- ✓ Begin as early as possible
- ✓ Follow their advice and instruction with as much dedication as possible

Music Theory

- ✓ Identify pitches on the grand staff
- ✓ Identify and spell all major and minor scales
- ✓ Identify and spell intervals up to one octave
- ✓ Identify and spell triads in all inversions
- ✓ Be able to do all of these quickly and accurately

Ear Training

- ✓ Learn to Solfège scales and simple melodies
- ✓ Develop the ability to hear where “DO” is
- ✓ Practice theory fundamentals at the keyboard
- ✓ Develop the ability to hear and sing scales, intervals, and triads
- ✓ Sing with a drone

The Piano

- ✓ Buy an inexpensive keyboard if a piano isn’t available at home
- ✓ Play some every day, both reading notation and just by ear
- ✓ Practice ear training and theory at the keyboard
- ✓ Keep your eyes off the keys as much as possible when reading notation

Rhythm

- ✓ Develop a rock-steady internal pulse
- ✓ Feel the subdivision constantly
- ✓ Read rhythmic patterns, not individual notes
- ✓ Keep moving from beat to beat, even through mistakes
- ✓ Don’t rush long notes and rests
- ✓ Use a metronome every day

Listening

- ✓ Use resources like YouTube to listen to some classical music each day
- ✓ Keep a log of what titles/composers you’ve listened to, with a sentence or two of your opinions/reactions
- ✓ Listen to a variety of periods and styles
- ✓ When listening to vocal music, know the text
- ✓ Don’t try to analyze; just pay attention and remember as much as possible

WHAT MUSIC TEACHERS CAN DO

- ✓ Build the most balanced, comprehensive, and rigorous music program possible for ALL students.
- ✓ Build the quality of your program before trying to build its size.
- ✓ Go for intrinsic.
- ✓ Encourage and monitor academic excellence in your students.
- ✓ Work to earn the trust and good will of your school guidance department.
- ✓ Hold a yearly information night early in the fall for prospective music majors and their parents.
- ✓ Add a “College Music Major Info” page to your website.
- ✓ Help students apply to colleges and prepare for auditions.

BOOKS

Franzblau, R. (2013). So you want to be a music major: A guide for high school students, their guidance counselors, parents and music teachers. Delray Beach, FL: Meredith Music Publications. (<http://www.meredithmusic.com/>) ISBN # 979-1-57463-378-8. Distributed by Hal Leonard Corporation (<http://www.halleonard.com/>).

Bouton, J. (1971). Ball four: My life and hard times throwing the knuckleball in the big leagues. New York, NY: Dell.

Frankl, V. (2006). Man’s search for meaning. Boston, MA: Beacon Press.

Pink, D. (2011). Drive: The surprising truth about what motivates us. New York, NY: Riverhead Books.

Covey, S. (2004). The 7 habits of highly effective people: Restoring the character ethic. New York, NY: Free Press.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Music Theory & Ear Training Websites

<http://www.musictheory.net>

Wide range of free theory/ear training lessons, exercises, and tools.

<http://www.teoria.com>

Free theory/ear training tutorials, exercises, glossary, and articles in English and Spanish.

<http://www.emusictheory.com>

Wide range of free drills, tools, and links to other theory websites. Affordable teacher/class subscriptions available to design and make assignments, manage student records.

<http://trainer.thetamusic.com>

Free ear training games, including singing pitch accuracy test.

Drone Resources

<http://www.idrs.org/multimedia/midi/PUB/Drones.htm>

<http://raschwartz.wix.com/the-tuning-cd>

36 Chorales for Band

<http://aaronmcole.com/>

Solfège

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solfège>

TRI-M

<http://musiced.nafme.org/tri-m-music-honor-society/>

West Bend High School Band Website

<http://www.wbhsbands.net/>

Web Resources for Students, Parents, and Guidance Counselors

<http://majoringinmusic.com/>

<http://www.collegeconfidential.com/>

<http://www.greatschools.org/>

<http://collegeblog.positionu4college.com/>