

# DIGITAL MUSIC

LENGTH OF TIME: one semester, 90 minutes, 3 days per 6 day cycle

GRADE LEVEL: 9-12

## COURSE STANDARDS:

Students will:

1. Compose & notate original music. (PA Std 9.1)
2. Record original compositions and arrangements, using voice, keyboards and instruments (PA Std 9.1)
3. Work cooperatively on music composition and recording (PA Std 9.1, 9.3)
4. Examine the history of music and technology, starting with earliest recordings and continuing to present day recording techniques (PA Std 9.2, 9.3, 9.4)
5. Compare historic recording techniques with the popular culture of its time (PA Std 9.2, 9.3, 9.4)
6. Demonstrate computer and piano skills (PA Std 9.1)
7. Collaborate on class-wide composition projects (PA Std 9.1, 9.3, 9.4)
8. Examine digital distribution and copyright (PA Std 9.1, 9.3, 9.4)
9. Listen to and critique music recordings (PA Std 9.3, 9.4)

## RELATED PA ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR ARTS AND HUMANITIES

- 9.1 Production, Performance and Exhibition of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts
  - A. Elements and principles in each Art Form
  - B. Demonstration of Dance, Music, Theatre and Visual Arts
  - C. Vocabulary within each Art Form
  - D. Styles in Production, Performance and Exhibition
- 9.2 Historical and Cultural Contexts
  - A. Context of Works in the Arts
  - B. Chronology of Works in the Arts
  - K. Traditions within works in the arts
- 9.3 Critical Response
  - A. Critical Processes
  - C. Classifications
  - E. Types of Analysis
  - F. Comparisons
- 9.4 Aesthetic Response
  - A. Philosophical Studies
  - B. Aesthetic Interpretation
  - D. Artistic Choices

### PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS:

Students will demonstrate achievement of the standards by:

1. Written tests and essays on the history of music and technology. (Course Standards #4, 5)
2. Oral listening exams comparing recording techniques of certain eras. (Course Standards #4, 5)
3. Written compositional exercises and assignments. (Course Standards #1,3,7)
4. Perform and record compositions alone and in a group. (Course Standards #1,2,3,6,7)
5. Produce podcast(s) or other digitally distributable recording (Course Standards #7, 8)
6. Written and oral critiques of their own and others' recording projects (Course Standard #9)
7. Collaborate as a class on a cumulative recording project. – Course Standards #1,2,3,6,7,8,9)

### DESCRIPTION OF COURSE:

Digital Music is an introductory course intended to provide fundamental knowledge of aspects pertaining to digital music creation. This course will focus on the creation of musical composition, sequencing, and elements of theory through the use of electronic keyboards, MIDI and audio devices. This course will examine technical aspects of digital music production including keyboard performance, sound recording, multi-track sequencing, composition, and film scoring. Instruction in computer-based music reading, notation, and composition is provided during an intensive study of digital music. The course will also examine preparation for internet uploading, podcasting and creative music rights.

### TITLES OF UNITS - \*denotes ongoing unit

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 1. Piano/Keyboard skills *                           |           |
| 2. Music Terminology *                               |           |
| 3. Computerized musical notation                     | 2-3 weeks |
| 4. Recording Techniques                              | 3-4 weeks |
| 5. Garageband-based music sequencing and composition | 3-4 weeks |
| 6. Short-Film Scoring and Production                 | 2-3 weeks |
| 7. Music and the Internet                            | 1 week    |
| 8. Creative Music Rights                             | 1 week    |

### SAMPLE INSTRUCTIONAL STRATEGIES:

1. Study and develop practical piano skills
2. Develop proficiency in use of music notation software
3. Develop knowledge of form as it relates to music composition
4. Create and edit sound recordings using software.
5. Critique and evaluate real-world examples of film & television music.

### MATERIALS:

1. Macintosh Computer (Mac Mini)
2. Electronic Keyboard equipped with MIDI interface
3. Appropriate software
4. Alfred Adult Method for Keyboard Skills
5. Users guides for software being used
6. Professional examples of digital music

#### METHODS OF ASSISTANCE AND ENRICHMENT:

1. Class instruction
2. Guest teachers/clinicians
3. Peer review/assistance
4. Additional after-school assistance
5. Listening/Viewing library of digital recordings available for student use

#### PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT:

1. Student projects
2. Project assessment rubrics
3. Student reflection sheets

#### METHODS OF EVALUATION:

Students demonstrate mastery of topics covered through a variety of long and short term projects. At the time of each activity/project, students receive detailed instructions outlining expectations, as well as a scoring rubric. All rubrics are tailor-made to the assignment. Projects are both individual and group-based, and utilize peer-review and revision. Students are assessed on specific content fundamentals necessary for development through the use of exams. Students are given pre-assessments to gauge pre-existing knowledge before each unit is covered.

#### INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES:

1. Concepts
  - a. Researching material for project design
  - b. Time management/Task Identification
2. Communications
  - a. Group projects
  - b. Peer-assessment
3. Thinking/Problem Solving
  - a. Analyzing Data to solve problems
  - b. Help & Tutorial portions of programs
  - c. Using written and digital media to correct issues.
4. Application of Knowledge
  - a. Creation of projects
  - b. Written documentation, self & peer assessments
  - c. Recordings and notated musical products
5. Interpersonal skills
  - a. Soliciting information from others
  - b. Group skills