



Music Academy School & NCEA Curriculum

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Curriculum Level 1

Pitch

- ✓ Higher or lower
- ✓ Identifying pitch direction
- ✓ Pitch matching - identifying if notes are the same or different pitch
- ✓ Unison - identifying if notes played or sung in unison are the same or different pitch

Rhythm - Note Values

- ✓ Crotchet and crotchet rest
- ✓ Quavers in pairs

Rhythm Aural Recognition

- ✓ Sound or silence - discriminating between sound and silence
- ✓ Long or short - identifying which note is longer or shorter
- ✓ Rests

Rhythm - Speed

- ✓ Tempo
- ✓ Identifying if a piece is fast or slow

Metre/Time Signatures

- ✓ Duple metre and triple metre
- ✓ Beat and rhythm - understanding of beat

Dynamics & Expression

- ✓ *Forte* and *Piano* and their symbols

Instruments & Timbre

- ✓ Every voice and instrument has its own distinct sound
- ✓ How sound is produced - hit, blown, plucked, shaken

Form

- ✓ Same or different
- ✓ Patterns

- ✓ Repetition
- ✓ Echo
- ✓ Introduction, verse and chorus
- ✓ Round

Texture

- ✓ Unison
- ✓ Melody and accompaniment
- ✓ Round
- ✓ Drone

Curriculum Level 2

Pitch

- ✓ Melodic shape
- ✓ Recognising the differences between notes moving by steps and leaps
- ✓ Matching pitch and showing direction of a tune

The Stave & Naming Notes

- ✓ Treble clef
- ✓ Staff

Rhythm - Note Values

- ✓ Crotchets and crotchet rests
- ✓ Quavers in groups of two and three
- ✓ Semiquavers
- ✓ Dotted crotchets

Rhythm - Tempo & Terms

- ✓ Tempo changes
- ✓ Ostinato

Metre/Time Signatures

- ✓ Simple metres - 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
- ✓ Discriminating between rhythm and beat

Dynamics & Expression

- ✓ Pianissimo *pp* and fortissimo *ff*
- ✓ Crescendo and decrescendo
- ✓ Legato and staccato

Form

- ✓ Question and answer (call and response)
- ✓ Repeat signs
- ✓ Binary (AB) and ternary (ABA) forms

Timbre

- ✓ Recognising familiar instrumental timbres in isolation and combination

Texture

- ✓ Combining two or more rhythmic or melodic patterns which occur simultaneously in different voices

Curriculum Level 3

Pitch

- ✓ Pentatonic and major scales
- ✓ Recognising pitch sequences such as an arpeggio or riff
- ✓ Treble and bass clefs
- ✓ Sharps, flats and naturals

Rhythm - Note Values

- ✓ Semibreve, minim, crotchet and quavers (singular and in groups of 3)
- ✓ Semiquaver (in groups of 6)
- ✓ Dotted crotchet

Metre/Time Signatures

- ✓ Simple metres and time signatures - 2/4, 3/4, 4/4
- ✓ Compound metre - 6/8

Dynamics & Expression

- ✓ Legato & staccato
- ✓ Accent

Form

- ✓ Theme/motif
- ✓ Phrase
- ✓ Rondo (ABACA)
- ✓ Riff
- ✓ Ostinato

Timbre

- ✓ Acoustic, electronic sounds; voice and instrument types

Texture

- ✓ Contrast within layers of sound

Curriculum Level 4

Pitch

- ✓ Discriminating between pitches

The Stave & Naming Notes

- ✓ Reading the treble and bass clefs
- ✓ Ledger lines

Rhythm - Note Values

- ✓ Semiquaver subdivisions
- ✓ Dotted notes
- ✓ Minim and semibreve rests, quaver rest and dotted crotchet rest.
- ✓ Rhythmic devices - anacrusis, syncopation, ties and pause

Metre/Time Signatures

- ✓ Time Signatures, 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8
- ✓ Beat groupings

Key Signatures & Scales

- ✓ Pentatonic, major and minor scales (1 sharp and flat?)
- ✓ Keys and key signatures

Chords

- ✓ Major and minor chords
- ✓ Primary triads (I, IV, V) in simple chord progressions

Intervals

- ✓ Recognising intervals

Dynamics & Expression

- ✓ Dynamic graduations including *mp* and *mf*
- ✓ Articulations relevant to style, for example glissando, slide, slap, melismatic phrasing.

Form & Structure

- ✓ Repetition and contrast
- ✓ Call and response

- ✓ Theme and variation
- ✓ 12 bar blues
- ✓ Popular song structures including verse, chorus, bridge, middle 8, into and outro

Timbre (Instruments)

- ✓ Recognising instrumental types and groups
- ✓ Voice types
- ✓ Acoustic and electronic sound

Texture

- ✓ Identifying layers of sound and their role (accompaniment and melody)
- ✓ Unison
- ✓ Homophonic (melody with chords)
- ✓ Polyphonic (two or more independent layers played simultaneously)

NCEA Level 1

The Stave & Naming Notes

- ✓ Clefs - treble, bass, alto C-clef, percussion and “vocal tenor” (i.e. treble octave); *8va* and *8vb* markings
- ✓ Naming notes on the above clefs
- ✓ Accidentals - sharps, flats and naturals

Note Values

- ✓ Notes and rests: semibreves, minims, crotchets, quavers and semiquavers
- ✓ Dotted notes

Pitch

- ✓ Transposition - instruments in Bb and F. Bb Clarinet, Bb Trumpet and Horn in F. Sounding pitch to written pitch (upwards only)
- ✓ Transcription between clefs and open to closed score
- ✓ Vocal ranges

Time Signatures/Metre

- ✓ Recognising 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8
- ✓ Metre - recognition of rhythmic groupings and classifications (simple, compound; duple, triple, quadruple)
- ✓ Rhythmic characteristics - syncopation and swing
- ✓ Triplets

Scales and Key Signatures

- ✓ Major and minor key signatures up to 3 sharps and flats
- ✓ Major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic) up to 3 sharps and flats

Intervals

- ✓ Major, minor and perfect intervals within an octave
- ✓ Technical names for the degrees of the scale

Triads & Chords

- ✓ Root position triads I, IV, V, vi in the keys for the grade
- ✓ Dominant 7th (V7) in any of the keys for the grade
- ✓ Chord recognition - using jazz/rock notation and roman numerals

Harmony

- ✓ Perfect, plagal, imperfect and interrupted cadences
- ✓ Key relationships - tonic, subdominant, dominant, relative major, relative minor
- ✓ Recognise modulation to related keys - subdominant, dominant, relative major or minor via perfect cadence

Musical Form & Structure

- ✓ General structural components - verse, chorus, introduction, outro/coda
- ✓ Binary (A-B) form
- ✓ Ternary (A-B-A) form
- ✓ 12 bar blues form

Instruments & Timbre

- ✓ Instruments of the orchestra and their English names
- ✓ Score layout - recognition of family and instrument order and key features of a score
- ✓ Close and open scores
- ✓ Jazz and rock instruments and scores

Terms & Signs

- ✓ Simple articulation markings - staccato, legato, marcato, accent, slurs
- ✓ Common dynamic markings - *ppp*, *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *fff*, crescendo, decrescendo
- ✓ Common tempo/metronome markings - largo, lento, adagio (40 - 76bpm); andante, moderato (76 - 120bpm); allegro (120 - 168 bpm); presto (168 - 200 bpm)
- ✓ Common tempo modifiers - rallentando/ritardando, accelerando, a tempo
- ✓ Instrument specific performance directions - pizzicato, arco, sustain-pedal markings, arpeggio, slide, hammer-on, pull-off
- ✓ Common structural markings - bar-lines, double bar-lines, repeat bar-lines, first and second time bars

Musical Terms & Devices

- ✓ Recognition of various types of repetition e.g. sequence, ostinato, riff
- ✓ Recognition of melodic devices e.g. imitation, call and response
- ✓ Recognition of harmonic devices e.g. pedal note
- ✓ Texture - similar and contrary motion
- ✓ Texture - monophony, homophony, polyphony
- ✓ Texture - melody and accompaniment, countermelody

NCEA Level 2

The Stave

- ✓ Clefs - knowledge of the tenor C-clef and guitar TAB

Pitch

- ✓ Transposition - instruments in Eb. Sounding pitch to written pitch (upwards or downwards)
- ✓ Transcription from the tenor clef to other clefs studied; treble, bass, alto

Time Signatures/Metre

- ✓ Limited to commonly used simple, compound and irregular time signatures including 5/4, 5/8, 7/8
- ✓ Metre - recognition of rhythmic groupings and classifications; anacrusis “up-beats”
- ✓ Duplets, triplets and quintuplets

Scales and Key Signatures

- ✓ Major and minor key signatures up to 4 sharps and flats
- ✓ Major and minor scales including harmonic and melodic
- ✓ Recognition of natural minor and chromatic scales

Intervals

- ✓ Technical names for the degrees of the scale
- ✓ Recognition of intervals including augmented and diminished intervals

Triads & Chords

- ✓ Root position and first inversion triads I, ii, IV, V, vi
- ✓ Suspended 4th chords Is4, Vs4
- ✓ Dominant seventh V7
- ✓ Second inversion triad Ic

Harmony

- ✓ Perfect, plagal, imperfect (II - V) and interrupted cadences
- ✓ Key relationships - tonic, minor, supertonic

- ✓ Modulation to related keys including tonic minor via a perfect cadence

Instruments & Timbre

- ✓ Instrument names in Italian
- ✓ Score layout - recognition of family and instrument order and key features of a score

Musical Form

- ✓ Common forms - e.g. rondo, theme and variations, strophic and through-composed

Musical Terms & Devices

- ✓ Contrapuntal textures - e.g. imitation, canon, fugue
- ✓ Phrases - regular and irregular
- ✓ Melodic range and contour
- ✓ Vocal writing - melisma
- ✓ Devices and their use in thematic development - motifs, variation, inversion, imitation, augmentation and diminution and word-painting

Terms & Signs

- ✓ Articulation markings - *tenuto*, *portato* (*semi-staccato*), *staccatissimo*
- ✓ Dynamics - *ppp*, *fff*, dynamic articulations e.g. *fp*, *sf*, *fz*
- ✓ Tempo/metronome markings - *andante* (76 - 108bpm); *andantino* (80 - 108bpm); *moderato* (108 - 120 bpm); *allegretto* (112 - 120 bpm); *vivace* (168 - 176 bpm)
- ✓ Tempo modifiers - *allargando*; expression markings - *espressivo*, *grazioso*, *cantabile*, *tranquillo*, *poco a poco*, *molto*, *piu*, *meno*
- ✓ Instrument specific performance directions - up-bow, down-bow, harmonics, *con sordino*, *tremolo*, *una corda*
- ✓ Common drum techniques - roll, flam, drag, rimshot, snare on/off, hi-hat open/closed
- ✓ Structural markings - D.C. da capo, D.S. dal segno, al fine, Coda

NCEA Level 3

The Staff

- ✓ All previously studied clefs
- ✓ Double sharps and flats

Note Values

- ✓ Additional note values - demisemiquaver, breve
- ✓ Double dotted notes

Pitch

- ✓ Transposition
- ✓ Transcription between all studied clefs

Time Signatures/Metre

- ✓ 2/4, 3/4, 4/4, 6/8
- ✓ simple, compound and irregular time signatures including 5/4, 5/8, 7/8
- ✓ Metre - recognition of rhythmic groupings and classifications (simple, compound; duple, triple, quadruple)
- ✓ Syncopation, swing, anacrusis
- ✓ Duplets, triplets, quintuplets

Scales and Key Signatures

- ✓ Key signatures of all major and minor keys
- ✓ All major and minor scales (harmonic and melodic)
- ✓ Natural minor and chromatic scales

Intervals

- ✓ Major, minor and perfect intervals
- ✓ Augmented and diminished intervals
- ✓ Simple and compound intervals
- ✓ Inverted intervals

Triads & Chords

Limited to chords of the following types in any inversion in any major or minor key:

- ✓ Triads on every degree of the scale with 1st & 2nd inversion
- ✓ Seventh chords on every degree of the scale major and minor with 1st, 2nd & 3rd inversion
- ✓ Triads including VIIb
- ✓ Major, minor, dominant and diminished seventh chords
- ✓ Extended chords – ninths
- ✓ Suspended chords – seconds and fourths
- ✓ Added-note chords – seconds and sixths
- ✓ Non-chord tones (“non-essential notes” e.g. passing notes, auxiliary notes, changing notes and notes of anticipation, suspension)

Harmony

- ✓ Recognition of any type of cadence
- ✓ Notation/realisation of chord progressions within a provided harmonic framework
- ✓ Key relationships
- ✓ Modulation via pivot chord to any key