

Theory for Composers

Interlochen Online

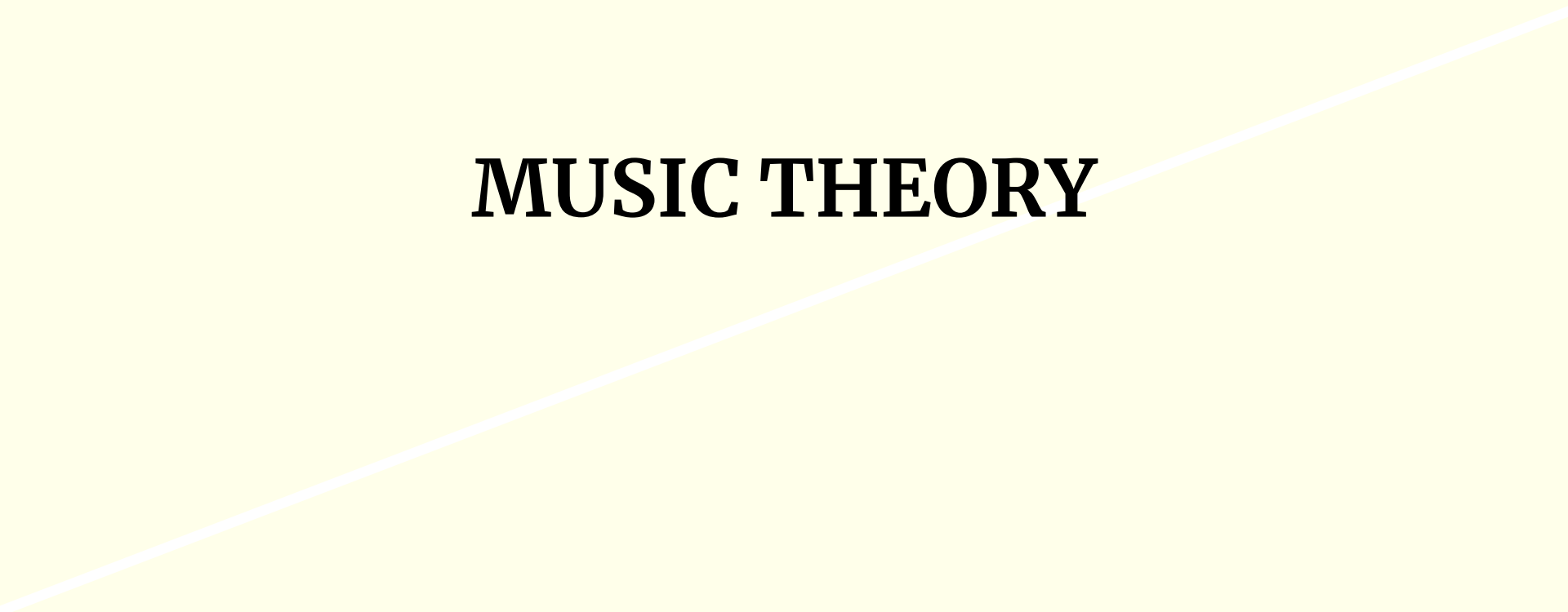
Summer Session 1 | 2021

with Dr. Andrew Martin Smith



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MUSIC THEORY



What is theory?

...a study of the past practices and future possibilities within music.

- ...a study of ***fundamentals***, which are needed to understand various types of musical notation;
- ...an interest in examining and explaining the “***why***” behind musical choices.

Why is theory useful?

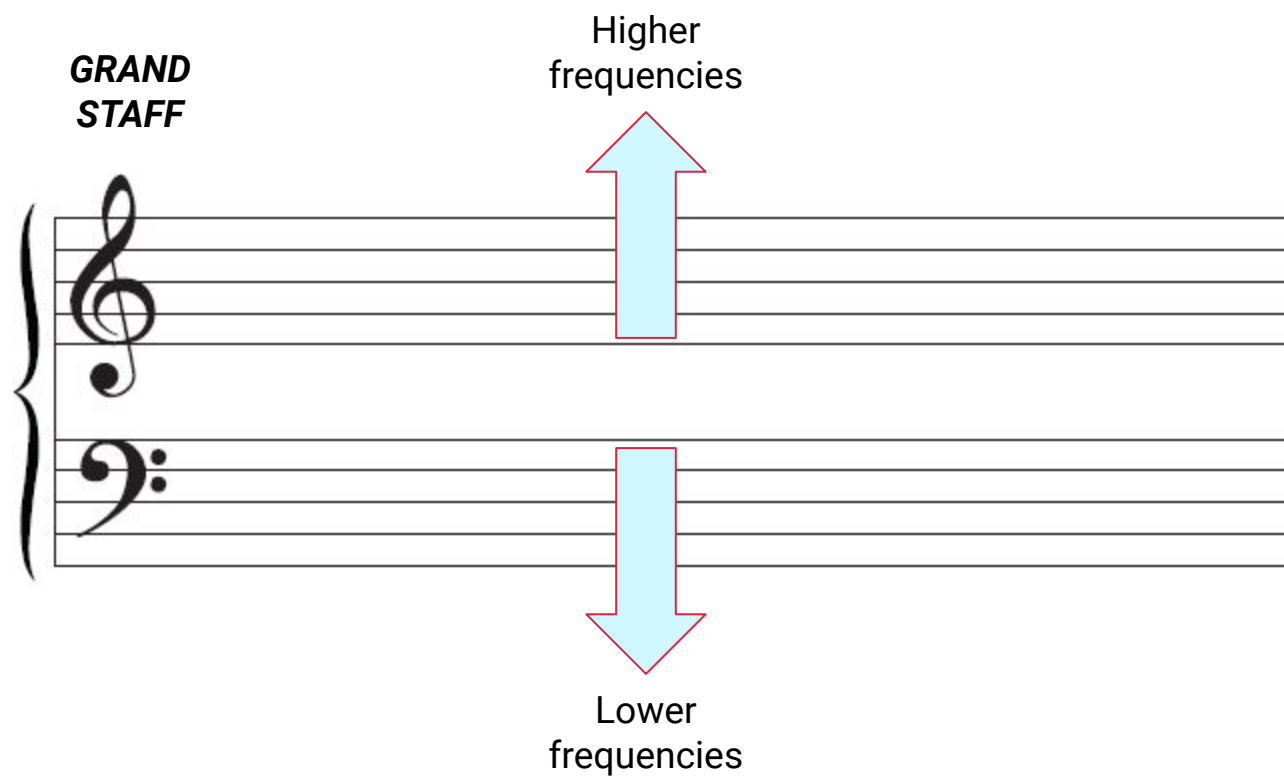
- It allows for an expediency of creative development;
- It strengthens the depth of one's musical communication;
- It enhances one's ability to recognize patterns within a (seemingly) chaotic structure.

SOME BASICS

PITCH vs. PITCH CLASS

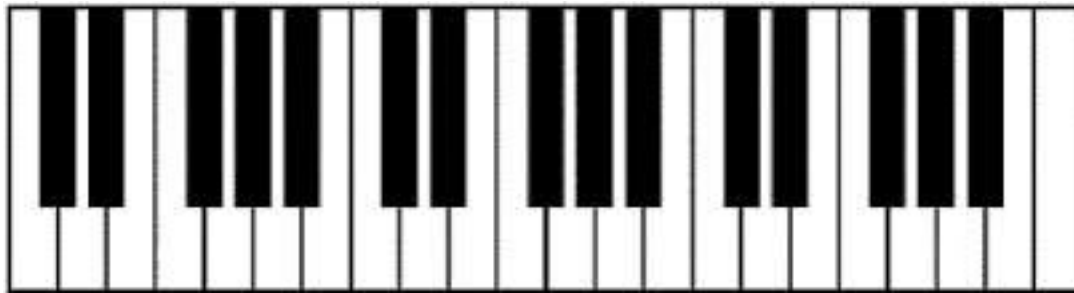
- A ***pitch*** is a sound tied to a specific frequency of vibration, measured in ***Hertz (Hz)***—i.e., vibrations per second.
[e.g., C4]
- A ***pitch class*** (pc) is a category of sounds related by octave displacement and ***enharmonic equivalence***.
[e.g., all C-naturals, B-sharps, and D-double-flats]

CONCEPTUALIZING PITCH SPACE (p-space)

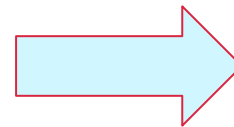
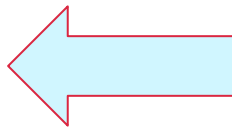


CONCEPTUALIZING PITCH SPACE (p-space)

KEYBOARD

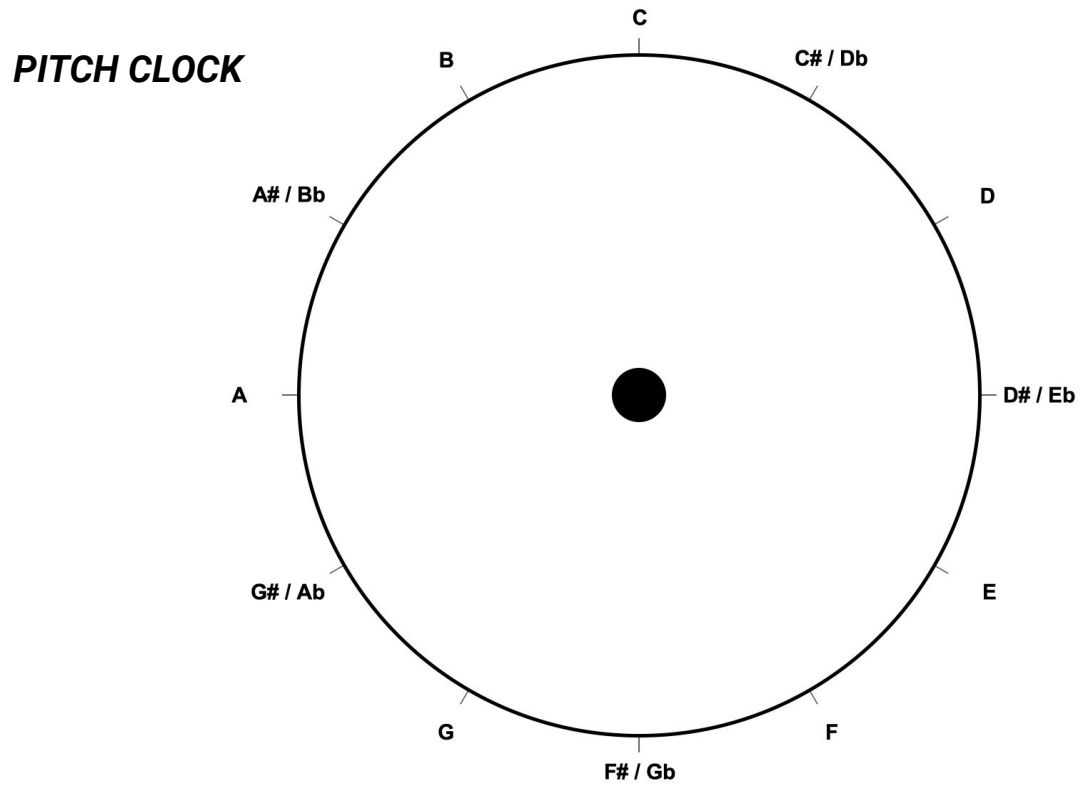


Lower
frequencies

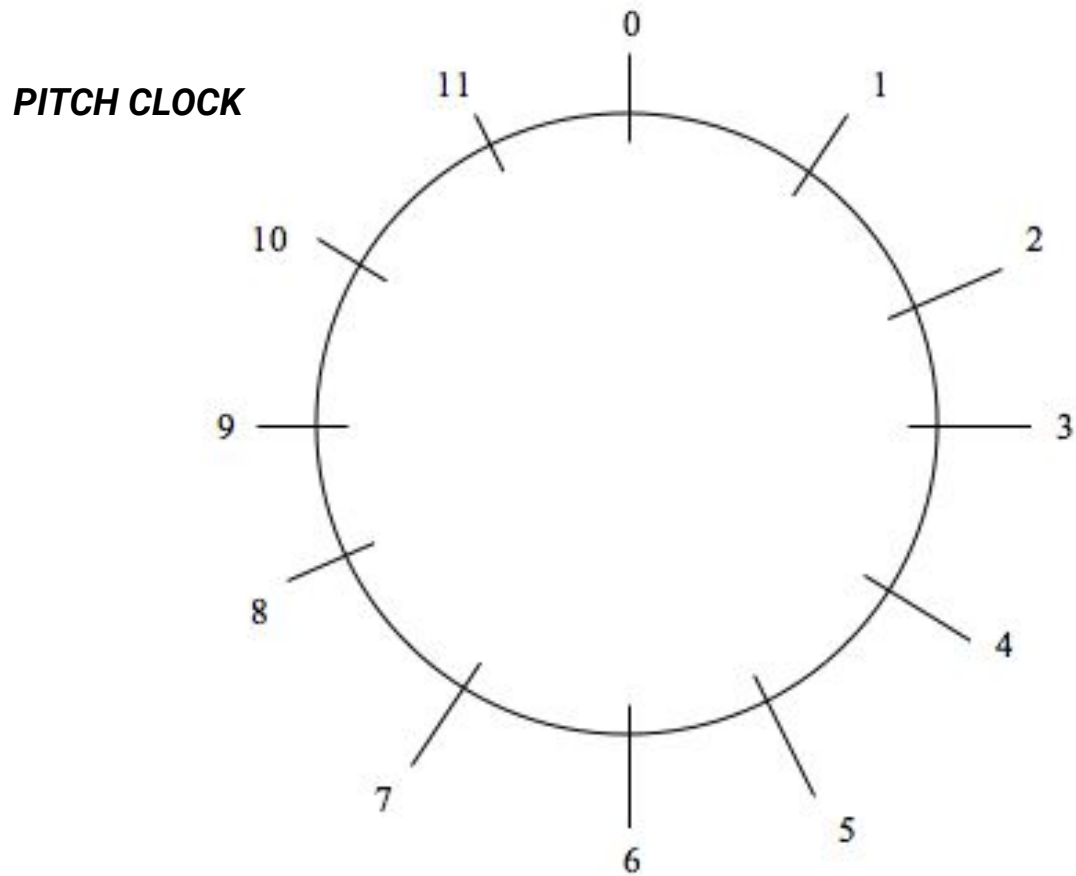


Higher
frequencies

CONCEPTUALIZING PITCH-CLASS SPACE (pc-space)



CONCEPTUALIZING PITCH-CLASS SPACE (pc-space)





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