

Course Outline for Adults

Embark on a Comprehensive Musical Journey

Instructor: Manouk Roussyalian – Seasoned composer and instrumentalist with a rich background across various projects and genres.

Module 1: Foundations of Music Theory and Audio Fundamentals

Music Theory Basics:

- Introduction to musical notation, scales, intervals, and chords.
- Understanding rhythm, meter, and tempo.

Activities:

- Interactive theory exercises using visual aids and auditory examples.
- Listening sessions to identify musical elements.
- Simple composition tasks applying learned concepts.

Audio Fundamentals:

- Basics of sound waves, frequency, amplitude, and timbre.
- Introduction to acoustics and psychoacoustics.

Activities:

- Hands-on experiments with sound production.
- Analyzing different acoustic environments.

Ear Training:

- Exercises in pitch recognition, interval identification, and rhythmic dictation.

Activities:

- Ear training software and apps.
- Group singing and interval recognition games.

Formative Assessments:

- Quizzes on theory concepts.
 - Feedback sessions to address individual learning needs.
-

Module 2: Introduction to Digital Audio Workstations (DAWs)

Understanding DAWs:

- Overview of popular DAWs (e.g., Ableton Live, Logic Pro, Pro Tools).
- Setting up your digital workspace.

Activities:

- Guided exploration of DAW interfaces.
- Customizing workspace layouts.

Basic DAW Functions:

- Navigating the interface.
- Recording, editing, and arranging audio and MIDI tracks.

Activities:

- Creating a simple project in a DAW.
- Exploring built-in instruments and effects.

Hands-On Practice:

- Collaborative Projects:
 - Pair up to create a short composition.
 - Peer reviews to enhance learning.

Resources and Continued Learning:

- Access to online tutorials.
 - Reading materials for further exploration.
-

Module 3: Melody, Harmony, and Counterpoint

Crafting Melodies:

- Principles of melodic construction.
- Exploring motifs, phrases, and themes.

Harmony and Chord Progressions:

- Building chords and understanding chord functions.
- Creating chord progressions that support melodies.

Introduction to Counterpoint:

- Basics of combining independent melodies.
- Historical context and practical applications.

Ear Training Continued:

- Identifying chord qualities and progressions by ear.

Activities:

- Composing melodies over given chord progressions.
- Harmonizing a melody.
- Writing simple counterpoint exercises.

Formative Assessments:

- Melody and harmony quizzes.
 - Personalized feedback on compositions.
-

Module 4: Composition and Arrangement Techniques

Song Structure:

- Common forms (e.g., verse-chorus, ABA, through-composed).
- Developing musical ideas into complete pieces.

Arrangement Skills:

- Instrumentation choices.
- Textures and layering.
- Dynamics and articulations.

Creative Processes:

- Overcoming writer's block.
- Using inspiration and improvisation.

Activities:

- Arranging a piece in different styles.
- Group discussions on compositional techniques.
- Peer review of compositions.

Collaborative Projects:

- Working in groups to arrange a piece.
 - Sharing and critiquing arrangements.
-

Module 5: Audio and MIDI Recording Techniques

Audio Recording:

- Microphone types and placement.
- Recording vocals and instruments.

MIDI Recording:

- MIDI controllers and input methods.
- Editing MIDI data for precision.

Synchronization of Audio and MIDI:

- Combining audio recordings with MIDI tracks.
- Timing and quantization techniques.

Activities:

- Recording sessions in class.
- Creating a project combining audio and MIDI.

Use of Technology:

- Exploring advanced recording software features.
 - Utilizing mobile apps for remote recording.
-

Module 6: Sound Synthesis and Sampling

Introduction to Synthesizers:

- Subtractive, additive, FM, and wavetable synthesis.
- Sound design basics.

Sampling Techniques:

- Creating and manipulating samples.
- Legal considerations in sampling.

Sound Perception:

- How humans perceive sound.
- Utilizing psychoacoustics in production.

Activities:

- Designing custom sounds using synthesizers.
- Building a sample-based instrument.
- Sound exploration exercises.

Diverse Learning Styles:

- Visual demonstrations of waveforms.
 - Auditory examples of synthesized sounds.
 - Hands-on manipulation of synthesizers.
-

Module 7: Mixing and Mastering Techniques

Mixing Fundamentals:

- Balancing levels, panning, and EQ.
- Use of effects (reverb, delay, compression).

Advanced Mixing Concepts:

- Automation.
- Stereo imaging.
- Dynamic processing.

Mastering Basics:

- Preparing a mix for mastering.
- Finalizing tracks for distribution.

Critical Listening Skills:

- Analyzing professional mixes.
- Ear training for frequency ranges.

Activities:

- Mixing projects with provided multitracks.
- Mastering a mixed track.
- Peer feedback sessions.

Formative Assessments:

- Mix evaluations with constructive critiques.
 - Self-assessment questionnaires.
-

Module 8: Scoring for Visual Media**Music and Visuals:**

- Role of music in film, TV, and advertising.
- Emotional and psychological effects.

Thematic Development:

- Creating motifs and themes for characters or ideas.

Scoring Techniques:

- Synchronizing music to picture.
- Working with directors and producers.

Practical Application:

- Scoring a short film or advertisement.

Activities:

- Analyzing film scores.
- Collaborative scoring projects.
- Presentations of scoring work.

Cultural Diversity:

- Exploring scoring techniques from different cultures.
 - Incorporating diverse musical elements.
-

Module 9: The Art of Orchestration**Instrumental Ranges and Characteristics:**

- Understanding each orchestral instrument.
- Effective writing for different sections.

Orchestral Techniques:

- Voicing chords.
- Texture and balance.

Advanced Orchestration:

- Contemporary techniques.
- Combining electronic and acoustic elements.

Activities:

- Orchestrating a piece for a small ensemble.
- Score study of orchestral works.
- Conducting basics.

Parental Involvement (if applicable):

- Sharing progress with family and friends.
 - Inviting guests to performances.
-

Module 10: Music Business and Career Development**Financial Management for Musicians:**

- Budgeting projects.
- Income streams in music.

Networking and Relationships:

- Building industry connections.
- Collaboration opportunities.

Project Management:

- Planning and executing musical projects.
- Time management strategies.

Branding and Marketing:

- Developing your personal brand.
- Utilizing social media and online platforms.

Legal Considerations:

- Copyright laws.
- Contracts and agreements.

Activities:

- Creating a professional portfolio.
- Simulated networking events.
- Developing a marketing plan.

Positive Reinforcement:

- Celebrating achievements.
- Recognizing progress and milestones.

Integrated Enhancements Across Modules:

Ear Training and Critical Listening:

- Regular exercises integrated into each module.
- Use of technology (apps and software) for practice.

Collaborative Projects:

- Group compositions and productions.
- Peer reviews and workshops.

Practical Applications:

- Hands-on projects in each module.
- Real-world assignments mirroring industry practices.

Resources and Continued Learning:

- Reading lists and online resources.
- Encouragement of ongoing practice and exploration.

Assessment and Feedback:

- Formative assessments after each module.
- Personalized feedback sessions.
- Goal setting and reflection exercises.

Diverse Learning Styles:

- Visual, auditory, and kinesthetic teaching methods.
- Adaptable content to suit individual preferences.

Cultural Diversity:

- Inclusion of music from various genres and cultures.
- Encouraging exploration of global musical styles.

Outcome: By the end of this course, you will have a comprehensive understanding of music theory, composition, production, and the music business. You'll have created a diverse portfolio of work demonstrating your skills and be prepared to advance your career in music with confidence and creativity.