

Music Theory Materials Website

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The *Music Theory Materials* website (<https://musictheorymaterials.com/>) was originally created to provide examples of *full pieces or movements of music* that could be used in the study of musical form and analysis. This website was designed to complement and expand on the music examples found on other sites, specifically Timothy Cutler's site musictheoryexamples.com, which provided excerpts of pieces. Music Theory Materials grew over the years to include pieces by lesser-known composers (e.g., women and non-European composers) and then jazz pieces, as the field of music theory and my own curriculum expanded. Music Theory Materials now contains not only pieces of music, but handouts, videos, and PowerPoint presentations on topics ranging from the fundamentals of music theory through more advanced 20th-21st century topics to provide open access resources for teachers of music theory.

Musical Examples

The main difference between this website and some of the other class resource websites available is that Music Theory Materials contains *full pieces or movements of music*. Over 300 pieces that can be used in the study of musical form and analysis are indexed on the Music Theory Materials website, including examples by lesser-known composers — e.g., women (26% of the examples), non-white composers (12%), American composers (29%) — as well as examples from jazz, pop, and film genres (21%) in addition to examples of Western art music (WAM). New examples are being added to the site periodically. Many of the newer pieces (e.g., *Elegy for Mippy II*) are pieces that students have suggested for analysis since they are performing them in their applied music lessons or are just interested in the piece or the composer.

An index of the music examples allows users to search by fields including composer and specific topics contained in the examples. Topics indexed include form (e.g., binary, ternary, rounded binary, rondo, sonata, 12-bar blues, 32-bar song form, strophic, concerto) and chromatic harmony (e.g., secondary dominants, Neapolitan/Phrygian II chords, augmented sixth chords, common-tone diminished seventh chords, mixture, non-functional harmony, altered dominants). Jazz topics such as tritone substitution, ii-V-I progressions, circle of 5ths progressions, turn arounds, passing diminished seventh chords, and rhythm changes are also included and searchable in the index.

Since the website was originally created as a resource for studying form, some pieces are indexed only by form. Later, compositions are indexed not only according to form, but also to some chords/progressions they contained. The list of chords/progressions may not be a complete list of what the piece contains, but ones for which the piece is a good example.

The entry for each musical example contains a link to a copy of the full composition or movement (if not under copyright) and a link to an audio version of the example. Copies of the scores contain measure numbers for ease of use in class and in essays and papers. The musical examples are downloadable PDFs and audio files are links to other sites. If a composition is under copyright (e.g. newer classical composition and jazz pieces), links to where they can be found or purchased are provided. For some of the pieces under copyright, i.e., those that have been suggested by students and are played by them in their lessons, scores could be available through faculty or music libraries. For some of the jazz pieces on this site, a lead sheet of the score is available; more of these scores will be added in the future.

Handouts and Videos

Handouts on various undergraduate music theory topics are also included on Music Theory Materials in both PDF and Microsoft Word versions. Topics for the handouts include theory fundamentals (e.g., notation, rhythm, scales, key signatures, modes, intervals, triads, and seventh chords), part-writing rules, and chromatic chords (e.g., secondary dominants, modulation, Neapolitan/Phrygian II chords, augmented sixth chords). New handouts are being added periodically.

Videos on binary and ternary form are available as well as PowerPoint presentations on 20th century topics including non-functional harmony, impressionism, Neo-Riemannian theory, set theory, and 12-tone analysis. For the set theory and 12-tone presentations, newer compositions by young composers are used as examples.

Links to other websites that contain musical examples are also provided since I know that this website is not a complete list of *all* pieces that can be used for theory classes. Unlike Music Theory Materials, these other resources, such as Music By Women, are focused on one particular group of composers or genres of compositions.

The Music Theory Materials website also contains a link to a new open textbook (*Music Theory Manual*, <https://musictheorymanual.com/>) that includes not only lessons on traditional Western Art Music topics but also explanations of some jazz topics (e.g., tritone substitution). This website, still under development, includes jazz topics since it is my feeling that all theory students, not just jazz majors, should know

something about jazz theory. In the future, this site will also contain more about Nashville Numbers and other types of analysis/musical notation for the same reason.

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