

Music Theory and Composition

Spring 2026

Instructor

Benjamin Kapp

Meeting Times

Saturdays, 10am-2pm

Program Description

In this one-quarter program, students study Western music theory and apply theoretical concepts directly to their own creative work. The course explores the relationships that underpin a wide range of musical styles, building both analytical understanding and practical musicianship.

Topics Covered

- Written music notation
- Scales, chords, and rhythm
- Harmony and musical structure
- Analysis and composition

Learning Activities

- Weekly ear-training labs
- In-class performance and applied musicianship exercises
- Creative projects connecting theory to original work

Textbooks

Clendenning and Marvin. *The Musician's Guide to Theory and Analysis*.
4th Edition, WW Norton. ISBN: 978-1-324-11502-1

Karpinsky, Gary. *Manual for Ear Training and Sight Singing*.
2nd Edition, WW Norton. ISBN: 978-0-393-89278-9