



seattle youth symphony orchestra

The Seattle Conservatory of Music is proud to announce that for the 2020-2021 season we will be rolling out a brand-new way of approaching music academics.

Musicianship Skills is an integrated academics course where students will study music theory, ear training, and music history all in one class. This is a major change from how the Conservatory has previously functioned. Instead of offering our usual separate classes we want to immerse our students in a holistic study of music and its associated skills and concepts. We hope to do this by providing them with a class in which they will be directly improving musical skills like rhythm, intonation, sight-reading, music analyzation, and more.

We strive to give our students a full and well-rounded music education that will empower them to get the most out of whatever musical activities they choose to engage over the course of their lives.

The course is divided into the three different topics:

**Music Theory** covers the basic vocabulary necessary to understand and analyze music. Students will begin with fundamentals such as key signatures, intervals, and triads. As students advance, they will study part-writing and develop music analysis skills and will cover topics such as species counterpoint and eventually atonal theory.

**Ear Training** is the application of the concepts learned in music theory. Ear Training develops the two principle skills of sight-singing and dictation. Sight-singing will have students developing their sense of pitch and rhythm by actualizing musical material with their voices. Dictation will have students identifying musical ideas in a live setting by practicing rhythmic, melodic, and four-part dictation.

**Music History and Literature:** here students develop the broad knowledge of music literature and historical styles that is crucial to effective performance. We use a chronological approach designed to study interrelationships between composers, styles, and surrounding cultures.

These three topics make up the Musicianship Skills course. Even just a year of Musicianship Skills can dramatically help a student improve their sight-reading, intonation, rhythm, and overall understanding of music. If students complete multiple years of the Musicianship Skills course they will be equipped to take college level music academics with a confidence that will maximize their education at the school of their choice.

This course is flexible enough that it will equip students with the fundamentals to help them get the most out of whatever musical path they choose regardless if they hope to be professional musicians or not.



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Musicianship Skills is split into multiple different levels to give students the proper environment for their current abilities.

### **Placement**

Students who register for Musicianship Skills will be filtered into the appropriate level according to their skill level and age. New students will be filtered into either our Intro to Musicianship Skills Course, or Musicianship Skills I depending on age and ability\*. More information on those courses is shown below:

*\*Students with previous music theory and ear training experience may choose to take a placement exam to test into higher levels if they so choose.*

### **Intro to Musicianship Skills (ages 8-12)**

Designed for our youngest students, here students will work on the fundamental skills of music such as key signatures, the circle of 5ths, clefs, intervals, and triads. Students will begin honing their aural skills and rhythmic abilities through different ear training lessons and activities. Students may take multiple years of the class before moving on to the mainline Musicianship Skills courses.

Students with no previous theory or ear training background will start here. Students will be grouped by ability and maturity to maximize comfort and pace. *Students will meet once a week for an hour. Classes are only available upon sufficient registration.*

### **Musicianship Skills I-III (ages 13-18)**

Designed for our older students, students in Musicianship Skills will work on the fundamental skills of music theory, ear training and history at an accelerated rate and advance through topics yearly. Musicianship Skills is separated out by topic as follows:

**Musicianship Skills I** begins with the fundamentals of musical notation, then progresses through concepts such as the circle of fifths, key signatures, relative and parallel keys, intervals and triads. Harmonic functions and basic four-part writing will be introduced, along with beginning harmonic analysis. (Equivalent to Music Theory and Ear Training I)

**Musicianship Skills II** continues the study of the basic functions of tonal music including four-part writing, seventh chords, secondary functions, mode mixture, binary and ternary forms, and modulations. (Equivalent to Music Theory and Ear Training II.)

**Musicianship Skills III** continues the exploration of the practices of tonal music. Small class sizes allow more individualization of instruction. Species and tonal counterpoint, as well as basic structure and analysis of fugues will be studied. The class will conclude with an introduction to 20th century practices

*Musicianship Skills levels I-III will meet once a week for 90 minutes. Classes are only available upon sufficient registration.*