

# Exploring Music

Mr. Austin

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This is a semester class that lets you explore sound and music through the use of technology – software, computers, and MIDI controllers. There is no homework. The course is divided into thirteen **required** parts as listed below. Complete them in order.

**Part One: History of Electronic Music** – You will learn a brief history of the major developments in electronic music instruments, the major contributors, and key terminology related to these developments.

Activities:

- Reading “History of Electronic Music” and taking notes
- Viewing an electronic music video and taking notes

Evaluation based on: Notes taken & written test on the “History of Electronic Music”, video notes and daily class participation

**Part Two: Using the MacLab** – You will gain proficiency in using the iMac computers, the MacOS and related software

Activities:

- Logging on and off in the MacLab
- Interacting with the MacOS
- Using basic Apple-supplied software
- Using a word processor

Evaluation based on: Completion of the MacOS Tutorial, written response to the **Part One** video and daily class participation

**Part Three: Fundamentals of Music\_8** – You will investigate musical concepts central to music reading and aural skill development.

Activities:

- Interacting with the software program called *Music Ace Maestro*.
- Reading, notating and interpreting music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music.
- Evaluating music and music performances.

Evaluation based on: Completing *Music Ace Maestro* lessons 1 – 8 and daily class participation

**Part Four: Manipulating Sound** – You will be introduced to the basic terminology and parameters of sound and sound production.

Activities:

- Reading “Physics of Sound” and taking notes
- Interacting with the software program called *Audacity*
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing sound
- Arranging sound within specified guidelines

Evaluation based on: Notes taken & written test on the “Physics of Sound”, completing an *Audacity* project and daily class participation

**Part Five: Fundamentals of Music\_16**

Evaluation based on: Completing *Music Ace Maestro* lessons 9 – 16 and daily class participation

**Part Six: Song Construction** – Using a computer, song loops, and special sounds, you will assemble and perform musical compositions.

Activities:

- Interacting with the software program called *Garage Band*
- Performing on instruments, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments
- Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music representing diverse genres and cultures
- Evaluating music and music performances

Evaluation based on: Completing a *Garage Band* project and daily class participation

**Part Seven: Fundamentals of Music\_24**

Evaluation based on: Completing *Music Ace Maestro* lessons 17 – 24 and daily class participation

**Part Eight: Working with a Sequencer**– You will create your own melody using sequencing software and a MIDI controller.

Activities:

- Reading “Keyboard Features” and taking notes
- Interacting with an *M-AudioKeystation 61es* and a software program called *Band-In-A-Box*
- Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies
- Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines.
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances

Evaluation based on: Notes taken & written test on “Keyboard Features”, completing a *Band-In-A-Box* project and daily class participation

**Part Nine: Fundamentals of Music\_32**

Evaluation based on: Completing *Music Ace Maestro* lessons 25 – 32 and daily class participation

**Part Ten: Composing a Song** – You will create your own musical composition using music notation software and a MIDI controller.

Activities:

- Interacting with an *M-AudioKeystation 61es* and a software program called *Finale NotePad*.
- Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music
- Improvising melodies, variations, and accompaniments.
- Composing and arranging music within specified guidelines
- Listening to, analyzing, and describing music
- Evaluating music and music performances

Evaluation based on: Completing a *Finale NotePad* project and daily class participation

**Part Eleven: Fundamentals of Music\_48**

Evaluation based on: Completing *Music Ace Maestro* lessons 33 – 48 and daily class participation

**Part Twelve: Composing a Song** – You will create your own musical composition.

Evaluation based on: Completing a *Music Ace Maestro* “Doodle Pad” composition and daily class participation

**Part Thirteen: CD Project**

Evaluation based on: Completing an entire CD of original music plus accompanying narration and daily class participation

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**Materials:**

- Pencil with a good eraser
- Notebook paper

**Rules:**

- Store your books on the shelves by the bulletin board, bringing no food, drink or candy into the lab.
- Treat the equipment with care, operating it only with Mr. Austin's permission.
- Arrive in class prepared to learn and work in a positive fashion, doing nothing to diminish anyone’s learning opportunities.
- Once class begins, walking around is permitted ONLY to sign up for help.
- Limit your talking to discussing your work with your partner.
- At the end of the period, log out, straighten up your workstation and push your chair in.

**Consequences:**

- First warning will be a reminder and discussion with Mr. Austin.
- Second warning will result in the loss of the computer / MIDI controller for one day.
- Third warning will require a call home and removal from your workstation.

**Rewards:**

- Creation of musical/sound projects.
- Upon successful completion of the course, you will be given a copy of the class CD containing everyone’s projects.
- If you are dissatisfied with a grade, all assignments/tests may be tried again; talk to Mr. Austin.

**View your grades from this class via the Internet at MCCSC Student/Family Access**

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**Exploring Music Info Acknowledgement ... After reading, please sign and return this entire handout**

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Student signature

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Parent / guardian signature