

Theory and Ear Training Skills Covered in Contemporary Musicianship

- reading (playing on your instrument/singing), writing and reciting the first five major keys (including key signatures) and their natural minor keys: C, G, D, F, Bflat and Am, Em, Bm, Dm, Gm.
- spelling and playing on your instrument (or singing) the major and minor triads in the first five keys
- chords in the basic 12 bar blues in the first five keys;
- writing and reciting the blues scale (1, flat3, 4, flat5, 5, flat7), in the first five keys, and playing (or singing) the blues scale in assigned keys
- common functional chord progressions used in popular music (I, IV, V; I vi, ii, V, I), etc.
- spelling, reciting and playing on your instrument (or singing) common modes used in popular music (e.g., dorian and mixolydian)
- common modal progressions used in popular music
- successful mastery of assigned rock etudes and other etudes, riffs and practice pieces; rock etude #16 is the classic beginning and should be mastered by every student; rock etudes #6 and #11 are classics as well
- recognizing by ear the relative pitches of the diatonic major and minor scales; recognizing by ear the quality of minor and major triads in all inversions and major, minor and dominant seventh chords in root position
- transcription by ear of rhythms commonly used in popular music and simple melodies from a known beginning pitch
- for guitarists and bassists, the notes of the entire fretboard; for guitar, the formation of all the major and minor chords in the first five keys and the formation of the basic moveable chord forms, especially major and minor triads, and major, minor and dominant seventh chords; for guitarists, using a pick for strumming, comping and lead playing