



RCM Music Theory Prep – Lessons & Games

The following concepts are covered in this app and support musical development at the RCM Preparatory Level.

Pitch and Notation

- staff
- grand staff
- treble clef
- bass clef
- bar line
- measure
- notes up to and including one ledger line above and below the treble staff and bass staff
- notes adjacent to middle C on the treble staff and bass staff
- location of notes on a keyboard diagram

Rhythm and Meter

- whole, half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests
- time signatures: $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

Scales

- C major scale
- A minor scale, natural form
- scale degree names: tonic

Chords

- tonic triad of C major in root position, solid/blocked and broken
- tonic triad of A minor in root position, solid/blocked and broken

Musical Terms and Signs

- accent
- crescendo
- decrescendo
- forte
- legato
- mezzo forte
- mezzo piano
- piano
- staccato
- slur





RCM Music Theory 1 – Lessons & Games

Building on the Preparatory level, the following concepts in this app support musical development for RCM Level 1 Theory.

Pitch and Notation

- notes up to and including two ledger lines above and below the treble staff and bass staff
- accidentals: sharp, flat, and natural
- half steps and whole steps
- measure numbers

Rhythm and Meter

- dotted half notes and rests
- time signatures: $\frac{3}{4}$
- ties

Scales

- the major scale pattern
- scale degree names: tonic and dominant
- G major scale
- F major scale
- key signatures: G major, F major, A minor

Intervals

- harmonic and melodic intervals
- interval sizes up to and including an octave (numerical size only)

Chords

- tonic triad of C, G, F major, and A minor in root position (solid/blocked or broken form)
- triad structure: root, third, fifth

Music History

- **Peter and the Wolf** by Sergei Prokofiev
- **Carnival of the Animals** by Camille Saint-Saëns
 - The Elephant
 - Kangaroos
 - Aquarium
 - The Swan

Musical Terms and Signs

- allegro
- andante
- a tempo
- diminuendo, dim.
- lento
- moderato
- ritardando, rit.
- tempo
- common time
- double bar line
- fermata
- tie
- review of terms and signs from the RCM Preparatory level

Melody and Composition

- motives
- composition of a short melody:
 - in a major key
 - with a given rhythm
 - using repeated notes and notes moving by step
 - ending on a tonic





RCM Music Theory 2 – Lessons & Games

Building on previous levels, the following concepts in this app support musical development for RCM Level 2 Theory.

Pitch and Notation

- notes up to and including three ledger lines above and below the treble staff and bass staff
- stems and beams
- repeat signs

Rhythm and Meter

- dotted quarter note
- strong, weak, and medium beats
- application of time signatures $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ bar lines, notes, and rests

Scales

- scale degree numbers ($\hat{1}$ – $\hat{8}$)
- C, G, and F major scales (using key signatures and/or accidentals)
- A, E, and D minor scales, natural and harmonic forms (using key signatures and/or accidentals)
- relative major/minor key relationships
- scale degree names: tonic, subdominant, dominant, and leading tone

Intervals

- harmonic and melodic intervals
- interval sizes up to and including an octave (numerical size only)

Chords

- tonic triads of C, G, F major and A, E, D minor keys in root position
- (solid/ blocked or broken form)
- functional chord symbols (I, i)
- root/quality chord symbols (for example, C, Am)

Music History

- the life and music of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, with emphasis on his childhood
 - Twelve Variations on “*Ah, vous dirai-je, maman*” (“Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”)
 - Horn Concerto in E flat major

Musical Terms and Signs

- allegretto
- D.C. al Fine
- da capo. D.C.
- fine
- fortissimo
- molto
- pianissimo
- poco
- presto
- rallentando, rall.
- pedal markings
- repeat sign
- tenuto
- review of terms and signs from RCM Prep and Level 1 Theory

Melody and Composition

- composition of a short melody:
 - in a major key with a given rhythm
 - using steps and skips
 - ending on scale degree $\hat{1}$ or $\hat{3}$





RCM Music Theory 3 – Lessons & Games

Building on the previous levels, the following concepts in this app support musical development for RCM Level 3 Theory.

Pitch and Notation

- transposition up or down one octave within the treble or bass staff
- enharmonic equivalents, using sharp, flat, and natural signs

Rhythm and Meter

- conducting patterns
- the anacrusis
- sixteenth notes and rests
- dotted eighth notes and rests

Scales

- D and B flat major scales
- G and B minor scales
- minor scales: natural, melodic and harmonic form
- scale degree names: tonic, subdominant, dominant, leading tone, and subtonic

Intervals

- perfect and major intervals
- minor thirds

Chords

- major, minor, and parallel triads
- dominant triads
- functional chord symbols (I, i, V)
- root/quality chord symbols (for example, F, Em)

Music History

- an introduction to the life and musical career of Johann Sebastian Bach
- music for dancing
 - menuet, gavotte, and gigue

Musical Terms and Signs

- cantabile
- dal segno, D.S.
- dolce
- grazioso
- maestoso
- marcato
- ottava, 8va
- review of terms and signs from previous RCM Music Theory levels

Melody and Composition

- composition of a short melody:
 - in a major key with a given rhythm
 - using steps, skips, and occasional leaps between notes of the tonic and dominant triads
 - ending on a stable pitch ($\hat{1}$ or $\hat{3}$)





RCM Music Theory 4 – Lessons & Games

Building on the previous levels, the following concepts in this app support musical development for RCM Level 4 Theory.

Pitch and Notation

- transposition up or down one octave, including change of clef

Rhythm and Meter

- triplets
- time signatures $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{2}{8}$ $\frac{4}{8}$

Scales

- major and minor scales (natural, harmonic, and melodic forms) up to three sharps or flats (using key signatures and/or accidentals)
- scale degree names: tonic, subdominant, dominant, leading tone, and subtonic

Intervals

- melodic and harmonic intervals (major, minor, and perfect, up to an octave, above the tonic of required major keys only, using key signatures or accidentals)

Chords

- tonic, subdominant, and dominant triads of required keys in root position (solid/blocked or broken form)
- functional chord symbols (I, i, IV, v, V)
- root/quality chord symbols (for example, C, Bm)

Music History

- families of orchestral instruments
- The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra** by Benjamin Britten
- The Nutcracker** by Pyotr Il'yich Tchaikovsky (Waltz of the Flowers, Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy)

Musical Terms and Signs

- accelerando, accel.
- adagio
- mano destra, m.d.
- mano sinistra, m.s.
- prestissimo
- Tempo primo (Tempo I)
- vivace
- breath mark
- down bow
- up bow

Melody and Composition

- composition of a four-measure melody:
 - in a major key
 - using a mixture of steps, skips, and leaps between notes of the tonic and dominant triads
 - ending on degree stable pitch

